

Hafa Adai!

CCC awaits new board member to continue with revocation proceedings. **PAGE 2**  
\$1M available to CNMI to improve criminal record keeping. **PAGE 5**

\$1

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 199

www.saipantribune.com

FRIDAY OCTOBER 4, 2024

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## FOR RECOVERY OF PLANES BOUGHT THRU ARPA

# Legal action urged vs. MSA

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Sen. Celina Babauta (D-Saipan) is asking Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and the Office of the Attorney General to take legal action against Marianas Southern Airways for the recovery of two Tecnam P2012 aircrafts allegedly purchased through American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Babauta, in a letter to Palacios and Attorney General Edward Manibusan, followed up on a meeting they had last

year regarding the two Tecnam P2012 aircraft MSA purchased through a sole-source, ARPA-funded, contract with



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

File photo of Marianas Southern Airways' Tecnam P2012 aircraft.

the previous administration.

In addition, Babauta encouraged that legal action be taken to recover these planes if proven that they were purchased through CNMI ARPA monies.

"I am writing to follow up on our meeting last year concerning the two Tecnam P2012 aircraft acquired by Marianas Southern Air using approximately \$8 million of American Rescue Plan Act resources entrusted to our government under the previous administration and to formally

See **LEGAL** on Page 4

## Heavy rain expected over the weekend

By CHRYSTAL MARINO  
chrystal\_marino@saipantribune.com  
CORRESPONDENT

CNMI and Guam residents are advised to secure loose items outside their homes and prepare for several inches of rain and rough seas this

See **RAIN** on Page 4



Aydlett

## Kim-Tenorio gets above 'good' overall average rating

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE  
delatorreferdie@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT



Hodson

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio received an above "good" overall average rating in the CNMI Bar Association's evaluation of her performance on the bench.

Tenorio is seeking her  
See **RATING** on Page 4

## Torres eyes rehabilitation programs at DOC

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD  
raxfloyd@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

Department of Corrections Commissioner Anthony Torres wants to transform DOC to the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation as he presented his initiatives during the Saipan Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting last Wednesday at the Hibiscus Hall of Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

Torres said his recent trip to  
See **TORRES** on Page 4

Department of Corrections Commissioner Anthony Torres makes his presentation to members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce last Wednesday at Hibiscus Hall of Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.



## INSIDE

Q & A  
Getting to know our teachers

### SUPPLEMENT

In celebration of Teachers' Day, *Saipan Tribune* picked the brains of five teachers on Saipan on what makes the profession so special.

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### LOCAL

College Board announced that Saipan International School has been named to the 2024 Advanced Placement Program School Honor Roll. In 2023, SIS was the only CNMI school on the Honor Roll, earning Gold distinction.

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### LIFE & STYLE

A San Diego doctor became the third person to plead guilty in the case of Matthew Perry's fatal drug overdose, as prosecutors collect cooperators in an attempt to convict two bigger targets they say are responsible for the death of the "Friends" star.

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# Local

## CCC awaits new board member to continue with revocation proceedings

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission is waiting for the Senate to confirm the nomination of Thomas A. Manglona to continue with revocation proceedings against the Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

During CCC's regular board meeting last week, CCC board chair Edward DeLeon Guerrero shared that once the Senate confirms the nomination of Manglona to the commission, they

will have quorum to proceed with the process of revoking IPI's exclusive casino license.

"I'm not very hopeful in terms of recovering [IPI's debt]. Nevertheless, we're still in the proceedings to revoke. We don't need to go back and re-hear it. It's already done. It is just a matter of...deliberating. Once the new commissioner is confirmed, the three of you can proceed and decide whether or not to revoke," he said.

However, before deliberating, CCC must first ask the U.S. District Court for the

NMI to lift the stay on revocations proceedings, a move which also requires quorum.

The stay was automatically implemented when IPI filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy earlier this year.

However, because IPI has decided it will proceed with selling the hotel casino, the CCC has decided to again pursue revocation of the exclusive casino license.

DeLeon Guerrero notes that although the commission has five seats, three commissioners would be enough to constitute a quorum for the revocation hearing.

Currently, because DeLeon Guerrero has recused himself from the revocation hearing, the CCC board does not have quorum to proceed with revocation.

A former port manager on Rota, Manglona will fill the seat vacated by Martin Mendiola, whose term ended on April 30, 2024.

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**LEGAL**

From page 1

request that the government of the Northern Mariana Islands consider taking legal action against Marianas Southern Air and other deceitful actors to recover two aircraft purchased with at least \$4.5 million in ARPA funds," she said.

Babauta expressed that if ARPA funds were in fact used for the purchase of these planes, the CNMI has a claim to ownership of these planes.

"The use of ARPA funds, intended for pandemic relief and economic recovery, for the acquisition of these assets raises significant questions about the propriety of the expenditure made by former governor Ralph DLG Torres and his for-

mer secretary of Finance, David DLG. Atalg. As you are aware, Marianas Southern Air, a joint venture between Southern Airways Express and Saipan-based MP Enterprises, was awarded a sole-source contract valued at \$8 million by the previous administration to purchase two Teenam P2012 aircraft. It is my understanding that these funds were derived from the American Rescue Plan Act. It appears that the CNMI may have a colorable claim to ownership of these aircraft," she said.

Babauta adds that it is concerning that since Marianas Southern Airways closed its doors back in April 2023, the planes have reportedly been used by Mokulele Air (operated by Southern Airways Express) for interisland travel within Hawaii.

"When Marianas Southern Airways closed their doors on April 1, 2023, the aircraft were immediately brought to Guam for fuel tank modifications to enable them to fly to Hawaii. It is concerning that these planes are reportedly now being utilized by Mokulele Air for their interisland service within Hawaii. Southern Airways Express has publicly stated that these aircraft will be used as reserve aircraft for their subsidiary, Mokulele Airlines, and will also be available for private charter. I believe this constitutes a significant breach of the original contract and a misuse of public funds," she said.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

**RATING**

From page 1

second retention on the bench in the upcoming Nov. 5 general elections. She handles the CNMI Drug Court. In 2017, she was also appointed to preside over the Family Court docket.

Under the CNMI Constitution, the question whether justices or judges will be retained shall be put to a vote at a general election immediately before the end of that justice's or judge's initial term of office.

According to the Bar Association's results of the performance evaluation released yesterday, Tenorio obtained "good" total average ratings in all criteria, or 4.94, which is near the "excellent" 5 rating scale.

"Good" or a rating of 4 means the magistrate often exceeds minimum standards of performance, while "excellent" or 5 means the judge consistently exceeds minimum standards of performance.

"Unacceptable" or a rating of 1 means the magistrate seldom meets minimum stan-

dards of performance, "deficient" or a rating of 2 means the judge does not always meet minimum standards of performance. "Acceptable" or a rating of 3 means the judge meets minimum standards of performance.

There are four main criteria: legal ability, integrity and impartiality, communication skills, and professionalism and temperament.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

**TORRES**

From page 1

Singapore showed him how critical the community is in helping inmates reintegrate into society.

"We are now taking in the Board of Parole, so we have a centralized approach to integration. We aren't just working toward improving the safety of our community. We are also working on programs that make inmates more valuable citizens and make their recovery an inevitability rather than wishful thinking."

Torres said local businesses and organizations have provided mentorship, job training, and ongoing support to inmates. In 2021, Coral Ocean Resort had 14 inmates complete and pass a construction safety course, while in 2023, COP had nine inmates complete and pass electrical level 1 and 2 courses.

Torres then invited local business leaders to become partners in supporting individuals seeking to reintegrate

into the workforce by sponsoring mentorship programs and providing support for skill-building and employment. He said creating and offering new opportunities for those seeking a fresh start are key in the rehabilitation of inmates.

"Today I want to highlight impactful initiatives we have undertaken within our department that not only improve our operations but also reflect our commitment to serving our community," said Torres.

According to Torres, his leadership philosophy focuses on purpose, vision, collaboration, and learning. He also encourages long-term perspectives, resilience, and adaptability and assured that his department is committed to public safety and fostering legal education.

Other initiative discussed by Torres include revenue-generating activities, grants, cost reduction, a safer community, and a stronger department.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

**RAIN**

From page 1

weekend as a weak tropical disturbance is said to be currently developing near the Federated States of Micronesia and may affect the Marianas.

According to the National Weather Service as of yesterday, the disturbance, centered northeast of Weno, Chuuk, is being monitored closely by meteorologists at the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam. The system, designated as Invest 99W, has been

slowly moving westward and is expected to continue on this path over the next few days. Forecast models are currently split on whether it will strengthen into a significant tropical system or remain a weak disturbance as it passes near the Marianas late Sunday into Monday.

NWS Guam meteorologist Landon Aydtlett said while some forecast models indicate the possibility of a tropical depression or weak tropical storm near Guam and the CNMI by Sunday, more aggressive models suggest the potential for a typhoon near the CNMI.

However, at present, the Joint Typhoon Warning Center has rated the system as "sub-low" for development, meaning significant intensification is not expected within the next 48 hours.

"We still have some wiggle room for this disturbance to evolve, and there is a wide range of speculation," said Aydtlett. "But this will be another system to watch very closely, especially as we approach the weekend."

In addition to the uncertainty surrounding the storm's intensity, the NWS has issued a Hydrologic Outlook for Guam and the CNMI, warning of the potential for heavy rainfall between Saturday night and Tuesday. The region could see anywhere from 6 to 11 inches of rain over the multi-day event, which could result in flooding in low-lying areas.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)



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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

10/04/2024

**Notice for Public Comment**

Reprogramming of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds

Program Year/ IDIS No.	LOREM	Activity Name:	Subrecipient:	Approved Budget:	Proposed Reprogramming Amount:	Proposed Revised Project Budget:	Current IDIS Funded Amount:
	CDBG	PY2021 Unobligated Funds Available to commit			(\$71,973.83)		
	CDBG	PY2022 Unobligated Funds Available to commit			(\$19,483.47)		
IDIS#755	CDBG	Kagman Community Park, Phase 2 Project	Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Office (DCCA)/Division of Youth Services (DYS)	\$195,766.80	(\$57,457.34)	\$138,309.46	\$195,766.80
IDIS# 762	CDBG	Purchase of 2 Rescue Watercraft Vehicles and 2 All Terrain vehicles for the CNMI DFEMS	Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (DFEMS)	\$141,200.00	(\$6,110.00)	\$135,090.00	\$141,200.00
IDIS#760	CDBG	PY2022 CDBG Planning and Administrative Cost		\$196,025.00	(49,806.05)	\$146,218.95	\$196,025.00
IDIS#772	CDBG	PY2023 CDBG Planning and Administrative Cost		\$196,025.00	(\$45,169.31)	\$150,855.69	\$196,025.00
		Total Reprogrammed from Activities:			(\$250,000.00)		
NEW	CDBG	Purchase of Equipment for Firetruck	Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (DFEMS)		\$250,000.00		
		Total Reprogrammed to Activities:			\$250,000.00		

Our agency through its Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) publishes a "Public Notice" on reprogramming funds over \$100,001.00. Therefore, comments from the general public should be submitted to NMHC Central Office located in Garapan, Saipan, and in Rota and Tinian Field Offices, on or before November 6, 2024, no later than 4:30 P.M. You may contact Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Deputy Corporate Director or Ms. Tricia Tenorio @ (670) 234-6866/(670)233-0076



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Pro Se

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF  
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

In Re the Matter of the Petition To Correct: ] FCD CIVIL ] ACTION No. ] 24-0395 ]

Lara Redondo Ashburn Petitioner (s) ] **NOTICE OF HEARING** ]

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on November 18, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio. Dated this 1st day of October, 2024.

Patrick V. Diaz  
Clerk of Court

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)



## \$1M available to CNMI to improve criminal record keeping

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
delatorreferdie@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

The CNMI Criminal Justice Planning Agency was awarded \$1 million in federal funds to improve criminal record keeping, while the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence was awarded \$367,379 in federal funds to combat domestic violence.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) also disclosed in his *e-kilili* newsletter over the weekend that the CIPA is receiving \$20,085 to be used in recruiting and retaining qualified attorneys to enhance the criminal justice system in the CNMI.

Sablan, meanwhile, said as of late September 2024, residential households in the U.S. are eligible for another order of four free at-home tests from covidtests.gov.

On the \$1-million award to

CIPA, Sablan said the U.S. Department of Justice announced Wednesday about the money through the Bureau of Justice Assistance Fiscal Year 2024 National History Improvement Program Supplemental Funding.

He said the purpose of the funds is to improve the accuracy, utility, and interstate accessibility of criminal history and related records in support of national records systems and their use for name-and fingerprint-based criminal history record background checks.

The delegate said the funding was made possible by the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, passed by the U.S. Congress in 2022.

Regarding the \$367,379 funding to combat domestic violence, Sablan said the Office on Violence Against Women announced Friday of the award, which is made

possible through the OVAW Fiscal Year 2024 State and Territory Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions Program.

He said the funds will go

toward helping victims of sexual assault.

On \$20,085 funding for attorneys, Sablan said the DOJ announced Wednesday of the award, which is made possi-

ble via the Bureau of Justice Assistance fiscal year 2024 John R. Justice Formula Grant Program.

Regarding free at-home COVID-19 tests, according to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services-Administration for Strategic Preparedness & Response,

they started shipping tests the week of Sept. 30.

ASPR has underscored the need to have such at-home tests so a person can decide what to do next, like getting treatment to reduce risk of severe illness and taking steps to lower chances of spreading the virus to others.

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### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

#### PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-001-25

**SUBMISSION DATE:** OCTOBER 09, 2024 (2:00 PM)

#### "GENERATORS PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE, SERVICE, AND REPAIRS FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 06, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF \$200.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES OF THEIR PROPOSAL IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "GENERATORS PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE, SERVICE, & REPAIRS, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, (RFP-001-25)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., OCTOBER 09, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 540-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

**LEO B. TUDELA**  
Executive Director

DATE: SEPTEMBER 04, 2024

## Prepare now for NaNoWriMo

Come to Joeten-Kiyu Public Library on Saturday, Oct. 5, 2024 to get tips and help for writing your novel for the upcoming National Novel Writing Month in November.

From 10 am to 12 noon, the Marianas Writers Movement will offer guidance in the VTC

room of the JKPL about creating your setting and developing your characters. Mark your calendar for Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024 for a follow-up session on plot and structure. You have a novel to write! We're here to encourage and support you. (PR)

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—Dora Miura, 2015 Northern Mariana Islands Mathematics Awardee



*"[This award] is the culmination of my educational journey, starting as a student learning from passionate teachers, and now as a professional helping students develop their own academic appetites. I am honored and humbled to be a part of such a prestigious group of educators, which would not have been possible without the support and encouragement of my family, friends, and teachers along the way."*

—Peter Loken, 2016 Northern Mariana Islands Science Awardee

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) are the top honors bestowed by the U.S. Government to K-12 STEM teachers. Each year, up to 110 outstanding educators from across the country are recognized by the White House for their passion, dedication, and impact in the classroom.

**Do you know a deserving STEM teacher? Nominate them at [www.paemst.nsf.gov/SaipanTribune](http://www.paemst.nsf.gov/SaipanTribune).**



THE HEROES IN OUR CLASSROOMS

In Celebration of World Teachers' Day

A SAIPAN TRIBUNE SPECIAL ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

Q & A

Getting to know our teachers

By NHORLEEN BITCO LILLES  
Special to Saipan Tribune

Teachers' Day is celebrated on the birth anniversary of educationist Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. Since 1962, Teachers' Day celebrations are done on Sept. 5 to pay tribute to his exceptional contributions to education.

In celebration of Teachers' Day, *Saipan Tribune* picked the brains of five teachers on Saipan on what makes the profession so special.

**Name:** Tina Anglin  
**School:** Saipan SDA  
**Teaching what grade:** 1st grade  
**How long have you been a teacher:** 5 years

**What's the funniest thing a student has ever said or done in your class?**  
Why is your battery empty don't you have a charger?

**What's the most creative excuse you've ever heard from a student for missing an assignment?**  
My mom didn't finished it yet.

**If you could swap jobs with any other teacher in the school, whose job would you want and why?**  
I wouldn't swap with any other teacher because the older students aren't as fun and the lower students are too needy.

**If you weren't a teacher, what job do you think you'd be doing right now?**  
I would be a professional traveler.



**What's the funniest nickname you've ever had for a student?**  
Juicy Crab

**How would your past students describe you?**  
Strict but loving and fun

**What are your interests or hobbies outside of the classroom?**  
Traveling and exploring.

**What was your favorite subject when you were a student, and why?**  
Math because it was a universal language and there were very little variables.

**What's one thing you say so often in class that you might as well put it on a T-shirt?**  
Try your very best!

**What's one school supply item you can't live without (besides a pen or computer)?**  
Laminating sheets and cardstock paper

**What inspired you to become a teacher?**  
I wouldn't say I was inspired. For years I tried to stay out of the classroom, but I was always drawn to teaching. Teaching was where I find joy and peace watching the light bulbs flicker on for my students and their joy for learning.

**What is a typical day in your classroom?**  
Every morning, we start with the same routine, we have our morning meeting on the carpet, I check for students' emotions, if they are sad or upset, I find out why and what I can do to help them have a more pleasant day. Then we have Intervention/

See **TEACHERS** on Page 7

On this **Teacher's Day**, we honor our teachers who go above and beyond to educate and inspire. Your dedication makes our community stronger. Thank you for all that you do!

HAPPY Teacher's Day

GREEN MEADOW SCHOOL



TEACHERS

From page 6

Morning work during this time I review information taught the previous day and/or week. This helps to keep the information relevant and make it concrete. Then we get a brain break before heading into Language Arts, which is broken into four key components: Phonics, Reading, Comprehension and Writing. This helps my students to understand what they are learning and how it all applies to each other. Then they have P.E. I'm sure it is secretly their favorite class. After which we have Bible where students can explore and learn about God and the wonderful world He's gifted us. By this time everyone is watching the clock for lunch, after lunch students engage in math story's, interactive games and movement, then it's on to the math lesson. After math we enjoy some more movement with recess, then end our day with science or history.

**What's the most unforgettable classroom moment you've experienced as a teacher?**

For me it's all about growth, so for me it was reading my students growth report looking at where they started and where they were now.

**What is your favorite subject to teach and why?**

I would say math and science, they are easier to explain and have more creative activities.

**What do you like most about teaching?**

Watch my students grow.

**Describe a troubling student you've taught (without naming names) and what you've done to get through to them?**

My most troubling student was a kindergartener who refused to work and interfered with other students' learning. To try reaching him I showed him extra love, something I believed he was lacking at home. When he came in each morning, I would meet him in the hallway and give him a big hug, he would get to be my personal bodyguard. It worked for a while, but the home life got worse, so his behavior declined again, he was then removed from our school.

**How do you motivate your students to become active learners in your classroom?**

I give my students the opportunity to teach, and consistently celebrate their efforts wrong or write once they try, I can

see where to help them. I also give positive reinforcement and student shout outs to parents.

**How do you manage work-life balance as a teacher, given the demands of the profession?**

Sometimes you just must close your eyes to the papers that need to be graded, the assignments that need to be created and just watch a movie or hang out with friends. I try to take at least 1 hour of wind down time after work to decompress.

**Can you share a challenging experience you faced as a teacher and how you overcame it?**

The most challenging experience I have faced would be uninvolved parents, especially with students below grade level. How I overcame it was reminding myself that I can only be the best teacher for these students, and improve the skills I can in the classroom.



**Name:** Ms. Bona V. Angeles  
**School:** Green Meadow School  
**Teaching what grade:** 2nd grade  
**How long have you been a teacher:** 28 years

**What's the funniest thing a student has ever said or done in your class?**

I had a new hair style and my student said, "Teacher, I like your wig!"

**What's the most creative excuse you've ever heard from a student for missing an assignment?**

My Mom forgot to place it back in my bag.

**If you could swap jobs with any other teacher in the school, whose job would you want and why?**

Teacher Elvie Pangelinan's job. She takes things easily and always take challenges and never gives up.

**If you weren't a teacher, what job do you think you'd be doing right now?**

I will be a nurse.

**What's the funniest nickname you've ever had for a student?**

"Ming-ming"—the student of mine eats next to me and falling asleep easily on my lap.

**How would your past students describe you?**

A very strict teacher but can bring out the best in everyone.

**What are your interests or hobbies outside of the classroom?**



Gardening and cleaning the house.

**What was your favorite subject when you were a student and why?**

Physical education. I love dancing and swimming. I trained my students in the Philippines and they got scholarships in high school because of the skills I taught them.

**What's one school supply item you can't live without (besides a penpr computer)?**

A notebook, where I write my to-do-list things every morning.

**What inspired you to become a teacher?**

My mother who was a teacher and my 4th grade teacher Mrs. Duran. She was very strict but full of love and dedication to us students.

**What is a typical day in your classroom?**

There is mixed atmosphere. During lesson time, we enjoyed learning together by infusing jokes but when it's time for activity, I am very strict to finish their work on time!

**What is the most unforgettable moment you've experienced as a teacher?**

When my student joined a contest and dress our class and wrote, "Teacher Bona wants us to be the best! He won and I was so proud!"

**What is your favorite subject to teach and why?**

Bible—it is my happiness to make my students know how to prayand will have a good relationship with God.

**What do you like most about teaching?**

When I see my students believing that I want them to be the best.

**Describe a troubling student you've taught (without naming names) and what you've done to get through to them?**

A student whose having difficulty focusing. I searched ways and applied. Later on the student excelled in extra-curricular activities and alter on improved in academics.

**How do you motivate your students to become active learners in your classroom?**

Developing trust and confidence are the keys. I make them believe that they can make it if they do their best. I showered them with good compliments.

**How do you manage work-life balance as a teacher, given the demands of the profession?**

See TEACHERS on Page 8

Today, we celebrate the incredible dedication and passion of our GCA educators and educators everywhere. Thank you for your hard work, patience, and inspiration. You are truly appreciated!

Happy World Teachers' Day!

GRACE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

ACSI

ACCREDITED

Association of Christian Schools International

GCA

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Western Association of Schools and Colleges

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To all the teachers, your passion and commitment to education shine brightly. Wishing you a wonderful Teacher's Day filled with appreciation and joy!

Happy Teachers' Day

FROM THE MANAGEMENT & STAFF OF

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## TEACHERS

From page 7

At 56, it is only now that I realized that I am poor at balancing work and life. It is funny that I am just starting to have time with any personal life.

**Can you share a challenging experience you faced as a teacher and how you overcame it?**

Every year is challenging because I always aim to make a difference in the lives of my students.



**Name:** Julie Harrison

**School:** Grace Christian Academy

**Teaching what grade:** High School English and Science

**How long have you been a teacher:** 7 years

**What's one thing you say so often in class that you might as well put it on a T-Shirt?**

I asked my students this one and they responded either: "You Got This!" or "Intriguing."

**If you weren't a teacher, what job do you think you'd be doing right now?**

I'd likely be a camp director. From attending camps yearly as a kid, to being a camp counselor once older, camps have a special place in my heart. Who wouldn't want to be part of creating memorable ways to learn, grow, and to freely have fun with others ... not to mention having a job where you mostly get to play games.

**What was your favorite subject when you were a student, and why?**

Science! I have never not been fascinated by the concepts of science! I especially enjoyed middle school science because my teachers made everything hands-on, fun, and gave many visuals that help us conceptualize complicated inner workings or processes, many of which I now incorporate with my student's today.

**What's the most creative excuse you've ever heard from a student for missing an assignment?**

I'm not sure if it is the most creative, but one student told me that I had not assigned it to them, but only their classmates.



**What are your interests or hobbies outside of the classroom?**

I'm involved with Zumba and volleyball, but I also like walking, rollerblading, marine biology, reading, and sleeping.

**How do you manage work-life balance as a teacher, given the demands of the profession?**

Though the process of balancing our work with a life outside of teaching still feels like a learning curve for me, God is the voice I can rely on to call me out when I'm unbalanced and to guide me back to becoming balanced when I'm unsure how it's possible with all the work that must be done. Becoming part of M2 Fitness has also been a life changer for me in this regard. Yes, daily workout classes help with my health, but it has also opened the doors to a new community outside of school, introduced a fun outlet for any stresses of my day, and made me more aware of other events going on in the overall community to get involved in. Being part of something more than just our individual schools is key to helping us ensure balance.

**What's the most unforgettable classroom moment you've experienced as a teacher?**

In the years that I teach AP Language and Composition, we always have a Creative Arguments Project where the students argue a stance about something that they care about through a creative medium. We've had dramatic monologues, paintings, songs, board games, Minecraft and tangible sculptures, interactive websites, short stories, poems, and so many others. Though entertaining, it is the content of these projects that, though I can't say it is one unforgettable moment, are the most memorable moments I've had in any of my classes. I have been astounded and often moved to tears by what is produced. The majority of students choose extremely personal topics and thus their products often offer deep connection with or between students, helps bring understanding, ignites conversations and even self-reflection that I've seen students ponder for days.

**What do you like most about teaching?**

The kids/ students. Having the honor and privilege to know them is something I hope I never take for granted. Each day, even the bad ones, always seems to have at least one: funny comment, smile, hug, thoughtful word, new trait revealed, heartfelt answer, deep discussion, life changing revelation, victory over a trial, or excitement in their eyes when they really

understand something new. Our students are not always the easiest to manage and they don't always want to learn what we are teaching them, but their hearts are worth all the effort, time, and attention in the world, and their lives are worthy of investment.

**Describe a troubling student you've taught and what you've done to get through to them.**

Honestly I don't feel that I need to mention only one troubling student to answer this question because what's worked in getting through to them, regardless of their trouble or root of their trouble, has been the same. Being patient, speaking positively, and making time to be there when they need you. Whether the student threw highly emotive fits amid stressful moments, stole and intimidated peers through threats, fervently fought the simplest of rules, or simply refused to communicate at all, they all eventually reached out after realizing that regardless of what they did or how they treated me, it did not change how I responded to or treated them. They reached out after realizing that amid their behavior, I still had positive things to say about them and expected their best even though their "history" said it was unlikely. But what I have also learned, through a few unfortunate experiences, was that if they finally reach out and you don't make the time to be there for them, undistracted, they may just slam that door shut and never open it again.

**What inspired you to become a teacher**

I was actually planning on becoming a veterinary technician, eventually to emerge into the research fields of marine biology, when I was first applying to colleges. But God had other plans and within a few weeks, I was at a college I hadn't even considered and was studying to become a teacher. This did make sense though as I always loved school growing up. My sister and I used to play school for fun even before we were old enough to attend. I liked to learn and I was blessed with a good and engaging public education that was filled with good academic memories and teachers.



**Name:** Gospel Trinidad

**School:** Agape Christian School

**Teaching what grade:** 9th- 12th

**How long have you been a teacher:** 9 years

**What's the funniest thing a student has ever said or done in your class?**

A group of students did not want to waste this fruit, so they decided to give this fruit to me. It came to the point of me being called the "Monkey King" because I had a pile of bananas on my desk. This went on each time bananas were served during lunchtime. The excuse was that they were tired of it.

**What's the most creative excuse you've ever heard from a student for missing an assignment?**

"Royal (the school dog) ate my homework."

**If you could swap jobs with any other teacher in the school, whose job would you want and why?**

I would want to swap with the P.E. teacher because they get to play games or sports.

**If you weren't a teacher, what job do you think you'd be doing right now?**

I would probably be working in the hospital as a nurse or doing missionary work.

**What's the funniest nickname you've ever had for a student?**

The students usually come up with funny nicknames of their own that they coined for each other in their language. One entire class specifically based their nickname on their personality mixed with an animal or item they looked like. To give an example, one was drawn to look like a book that has the facial features of Albert Einstein because that student loves to read about astronomy and to learn physics.

**How would your past students describe you?**

Someone who is like an older sister to them. Someone who listens to their concerns, understands them, prays for them, and encourages them with God's Words.

**What are your interests or hobbies outside of the classroom?**

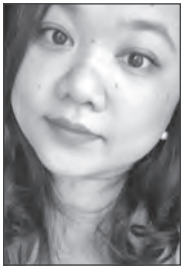
I do have a lot of interests, but recently it's watching interior design of tiny homes or van living. One of my hobbies is to recompose hymnals.

**What was your favorite subject when you were a student, and why?**

Geography, because my teacher made us draw the entire world map labeling all countries, states, and capitals of the world as our final exam. It was memorable. However, cooking, sharing, and eating the food based on our chosen country for our project in class made me love geography class even more.

**What's one thing you say so often in class that you might**

See TEACHERS on Page 12



Wishing a joyful Teacher's Day to all the teachers in CNMI and all over the world! Your hard work and passion help shape the future of our islands. We deeply appreciate your dedication and care.

From the management and staff of

Hafa Adair

**Saipan Tribune**  
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER





&amp; Tan Marikita's Cafe

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- Hot Dog Sandwiches
- Cotton Candy,
- Popcorn

### GAMES

- Burger Contest
- Corn Hole Toss

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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 199

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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AP The Associated Press

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### EDITORIAL

## Lips sealed — Federal judiciary moves towards less transparency

**T**he U.S. Judicial Conference's Committee on Financial Disclosure, surveying the tangle of questions raised over Supreme Court Justices Clarence Thomas' and Sam Alito's records of receiving lavish gifts from ideologically-aligned billionaires, decided to issue some clarifications on disclosure rules for federal judges, including the Supremes.

This would have been a good opportunity to show the public that the judiciary's oversight body takes seriously the possibility of misconduct and the need to preserve the public's trust in the institution. Instead, the updated rules are laxer in key regards, clearing the way for judges to accept significant undisclosed donations under the guise of receiving "personal hospitality" from friends.

Amid swirling controversies around the appearance of conflicts of interest, external entanglements and lack of transparency, moving in the direction of further chipping away at requirements and easing the path for the behavior at issue to continue under cover of official sanction can only be read as a provocation and a marker that the courts' leadership is disinterested in even appearing to avoid conflicts.

Thomas, beneficiary of millions of dollars' worth of practically in-kind donations from the right-wing billionaire Harlan Crow, can feel free to keep having these get-togethers without worrying about subjecting himself to the prying eyes of public scrutiny.

Unlike a lot of the pretty complicated and often mind-numbingly arcane matters that the Supreme Court considers, almost any regular person would have an intuitive understanding of what is meant by personal hospitality: a friend having you over for dinner, or perhaps letting you stay a night or two at their place. Most would not understand it to mean a seldom-used country estate owned by a shell company, but that is exactly the sort of thing that the new rules would permit to happen without any disclosure whatsoever.

It would be easier to believe that all this lavishing on justices has no concerning real-world implications if the justices both hadn't seemed so keen on keeping these patronage relationships from coming to light, and if they hadn't embarked on a recent program of advancing policy from the bench.

Their decision in *Loper Bright Enterprises vs. Raimondo* overturned a longtime precedent allowing federal administrative agencies to make determinations about the application of ambiguous laws, which is now wreaking havoc across our regulatory framework.

On issues from guns to gerrymandering to regulation, the court has consistently pushed the envelope rightward, with the jewel in the crown being its decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and the right to an abortion, despite sworn Senate confirmation testimony from multiple justices that they'd respect the precedent on.

Now, we approach the first Monday in October and another Supreme Court term that promises to be no better, but certainly less transparent.

The other branches have no reason to accept this failure to self-police. Congress and the president have before them a range of options to constrain the court without getting into the messy business of court-packing and the like. It's past time to remind the court that they are a co-equal branch.

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## Beyond living only for myself

**F**or someone who likes to overstate the obvious, I can be shockingly oblivious to foreseeable consequences of my own decisions and how they affect me personally. Nowhere has this been more evident than in the compromised, weakened state of my body, mind and soul over the course of the last couple decades. Don't get me wrong, I've held my own—carried my own weight—but (to play on a famous line from one of my favorite movies), "The saddest thing in life is wasted talent (or unrealized potential), and the choices you make will shape your life forever" (*A Bronx Tale*). A combination of self-neglect and a series of chronically bad choices brought me to the front steps of a "half-ton life," if not to the edge of brokenness. As if by some awakening, it finally clicked that my clothes weren't shrinking, but rather my body was expanding... outward. At a mere 5'9" (give or take), I weighed over 300 lbs. The hardest part to reconcile is how in the midst of a generally well-lived life for others I could have missed the slow and steady destruction of myself—the big fat elephant in the room, if you will? It's baffling and there, but for the grace of God would I have stayed. No doubt it's taken some level of divine intervention for me to regain a sense of balance and get back on track to a healthier, more productive life—a miraculous privilege for which I intend to reciprocate in-kind.

There is some irony to being an over-thinker who doesn't think enough about himself, but in my experience it's in giving rather than receiving that I feel the most fulfilled. I suppose when put that way, it's not really about being selfless as much as it is about wanting to be of some value beyond living only for myself. In my 52 years of life, I've come to the conclusion that the only life worth living is one lived in the service of others—whatever that service may look like and for whomever that service may benefit whether it be one person (other than yourself) or a million.

I've had the good fortune of being a father to four children and father figure to countless others whom I cared for as my own. So, for the better part of the last 27 years, I've lived my life in the service of my children (as a single parent for most of that time). I'd like to believe that I've done and am doing my best for them, but the truth is that my best was all too often drenched with a pungent cologne of alcohol and, more often than I'd like to admit, clouded with pride, sometimes wrath and always gluttony—forgive me Father for I have sinned.

It's in confronting some of these realities and realizing just how privileged I have been—to be alive for one, but also to have lived on Saipan all these years—that I decided to clean myself up and throw my hat into the proverbial ring for a chance to give back in a big way. Thus, my decision is rooted in the notion of wanting to serve our community; however, it would be disingenuous to suggest (as most politicians do) that my motives are purely altruistic. The truth is that my motives are also one part

By JIM RAYPHAND

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Jim Rayphand is a former director of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.*



selfish in the sense that I need a purpose bigger than myself in order to feel fulfilled—this job, for me, is as much about giving more meaning to my own life as it is about safeguarding (with America as our shield) the lives of all who call the CNMI home.

Running for political office comes with an undertow of expectations to act and speak in ways that do not outwardly expose any flaws and in ways that conform to certain political norms, not the least of which is to put on a public front of knowing and having all the answers. The thing is that I don't have all the answers. To quote another one of my favorite movies, "I'm the type of person if you ask me a question and I don't have the answer, I'm gonna tell you that I don't know, but I bet you... I know how to find the answer and I will find the answer" (*The Pursuit of Happiness*). So, much to the chagrin of those closest to me, our campaign trail is littered with me saying just that, "I don't know." For emphasis, my campaign has never been premised on a suggestion that I know all the answers to all of our problems, but rather on the assurance that I have the knowledge and experience required to lead a productive office in service to our community.

And here's another thing, I may not know everything, but I actually do know a whole lot about a lot of things particularly about working collaboratively with diverse groups of people with dignity and respect for all as my guiding principle. I would not be asking for this job, if I didn't believe that I could represent our CNMI in a dignified manner befitting the strength and honor of being a true islander. The work of our delegate's office demands a measured approach with everyone on all issues at all times and I want selflessness, humility with strength and even-keeled leadership that naturally fosters unity. With all due respect to each of the other candidates, I am not convinced that they value those attributes; in fact, their professional and campaign trails are littered with evidence to the contrary. To be clear, I would love nothing more than for all of them to prove me wrong—make me believe that those attributes reside in all of us. In the meantime, for the sake of the CNMI, I hope that each of us can self-reflect on how we can be better and make adjustments going forward.

Come November, one of us will be the CNMI's new delegate

See *BEYOND* on Page 11



EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

Messier 13

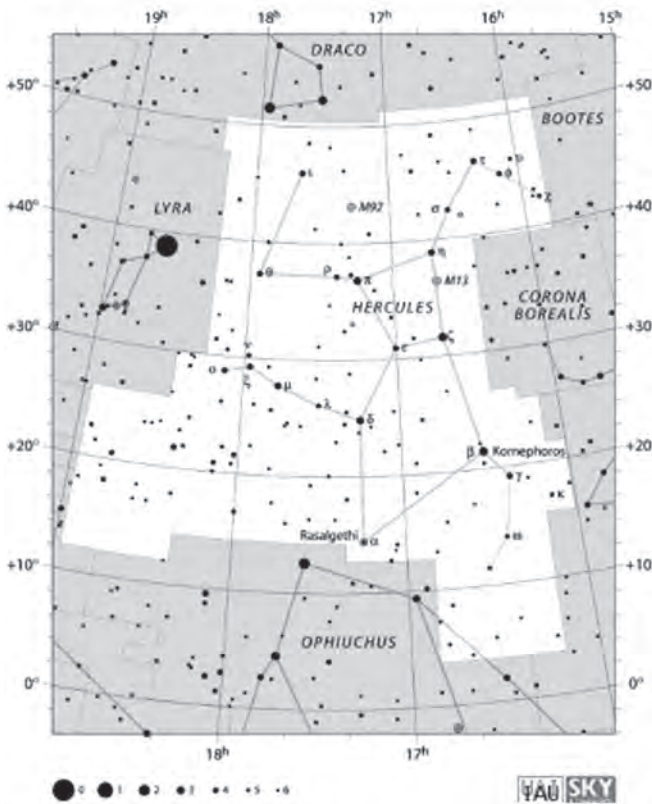
Messier 13 (M13) is truly a beautiful globular star cluster in the Constellation Hercules was taken with an SBIG STL-11000M CCD and a RCOS 24-inch telescope at the Mount Lemmon SkyCenter.

Messier 13 is truly a stand alone globular star cluster and is often referred to as (M13) was discovered in the year 1714 by Edmond Halley and was cataloged on June 1, 1764 by Charles Messier into his list of objects not to mistake for comets. Messier's list which included Messier 13 (M13), eventually became known as the Messier catalog. It is located at right ascension (R.A.) 16h 41.7m, declination (Dec.) +36° 28'. Messier 13



(M13) is often described by astronomers as the most magnificent globular cluster visible to observers in the northern hemisphere.

At a distance of about a third of the way from the star Vega to Arcturus, there are four bright stars in the constellation Hercules that form the well known Keystone asterism, known as the broad torso of the hero Hercules. Messier 13 (M13) can be seen in this asterism 66% of the way north (by west) from Zeta to Eta Herculis. With an apparent magnitude of 5.8, Messier 13 (M13) may be visible to the naked eye using averted vision on dark nights. Messier 13 (M13) is quite prominent in ordinary 7x50 binoculars as a bright, round patch of modulated light. Its stellar diameter is approximately 23 arcminutes and it is easily viewable in the smaller telescopes. Telescopes with at least four inches of aperture can resolve stars in Messier 13's (M13) outer extent as rather small pinpoints of light. However, only the



larger telescopes with greater apertures can resolve stars further into the center of the Messier 13 (M13) cluster. The Messier 13 (M13) cluster is normally visible throughout the entire calendar year from greater latitudes (greater than 36 degrees north), with the longest visibility during Northern Hemisphere spring and summer periods.

Somewhat close to Messier 13 is NGC 6207, which is an impressive 12th-magnitude edge-on galaxy that lies approximately 28 arcminutes directly northeast of Messier 13 (M13). There is a small galaxy, IC 4617, that lies halfway between NGC 6207 and Messier 13 (M13) and is located north-northeast of the large globular cluster's galactic center. Observing using low powers the cluster is viewed bracketed by two seventh-magnitude stars. Messier 13 (M13) is about 145 light-years (One light year equals 6 trillion miles) in it's overall globular cluster diameter and is composed of several hundred thousand stars, with estimates varying from around 300,000 to over half a million and more. The brightest star in the cluster is a red giant, the variable

By NORMAN BUTLER

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Norman Butler is originally from Topeka, Kansas and is a 1962 graduate of Topeka High School and a 1960's U.S. Navy E6 veteran. Butler has a 1972 associate's degree from San Diego City College along with a 1980's Bachelor's and Master's degree in Physics, including a Ph.D. from a California University. Norman's also a 1981 RTMC and a 2011 RTMC EXPO Merit Award winning Amateur Telescope and Binoscope maker and author of five popular Amazon books, including *Sky & Telescope* and *Astronomy Technology Today* magazines with Butler's articles and stories about designing, building, and using amateur and home-made telescopes and binoscopes for astronomical observing. Butler is also an astronomer who worked at the Haleakala Observatory on Maui, Hawaii starting in the early 1980s for AVCO Everett Research Laboratory along with the U.S. Air Force.

star V11, also known as V1554 Herculis, with an apparent visual magnitude of 11.95. Messier 13 (M13) has a distance that is 22,200–25,000 light-years away from Earth, and the Messier 13 (M13) globular cluster is one of over one hundred that are known to orbit the central region of the Milky Way.

The stars in this cluster are firmly embedded in the Population II category, which is somewhat lower in metals department than Population I stars like the Sun and majority of the other stars in the Sun's close proximity. Messier 13 (M13) as a whole has only about 4.6% or even less as much iron as the Sun does.

Stars of the singular variety in this globular cluster were first resolved in 1779. Compared to the stars in the neighborhood of the Sun, the stars of the Messier 13 (M13) globular cluster population is quite densely packed and are somewhat close together that they sometimes collide with each other and produce some new stars. These new recently formed young stars which are commonly known as the "blue stragglers" are of particular interest to astronomers. It's interesting to note that the last three variables (V63, V64 and V65) were discovered from an observatory in Spain in April 2021, March 2022 and January 2024.

My humble 3.55-inch f/7.8 Chinese refractor pictured above which I bought on the island of Saipan a few years ago can resolve Messier 13 make for a night's fine observing not only for globular clusters like Messier 13...but also faint galaxies and nebula too.

Between the immensities

Finding out from the beginning

Exposition

"In the beginning you really loved me  
But I was blind and I could not see  
But when you left me, oh how I cried  
You don't miss your water till your well runs dry"  
*(sung by the Byrds and Taj Mahal in the 1960s)*

Development

Ask about riddles, use your hot brain pan  
Find out from the beginning if you can  
Understand as much of the complete plan  
Diagnose and scope out the entire scene  
Gather all your random thoughts in between  
Investigate using intelligence and introspection  
Nudge your mind's memory banks into action

Go at it again from many different angles  
Have at it until you reach some satisfaction  
Attack with all your might all day and night  
Listen to your brain bursts, leaps, and tangles  
Focus on what might be both wrong and right  
Watch out for stubborn memories and mangles  
Ignore nothing and learn from beginning to end  
Then you'll see what is coming around the bend.

Recapitulation

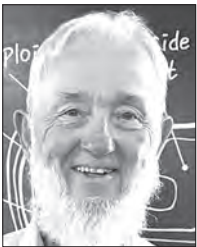
Daddy said my oldest brother was a halfwit  
and called his second oldest son a dimwit  
He said that all my extraneous horse poo-poo  
Would get me only hard laboring jobs to do  
that I was growing up to be a f...ing half wit.

N.B. Lines in the Development section beginning

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Joey Connolly aka "Pepe Batbon" is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is the Poet Laureate of Tinian and enjoys stargazing.

with 'Diagnose' and 'Gather' have been used to replace lines beginning with 'Construct' and 'Keep' to avoid a commonly used vulgar expletive in the acrostic that rhymes with trucking or plucking. That 'F' word is used in many parts of speech. It can have multiple meanings including anger, extreme distaste, to emphasize a point, or describe to what extent something is happening to someone. The original lines were 'Construct a picture of the entire scene' and 'Keep reason and rational thought and what is in between.'

BEYOND

From page 10

in U.S. Congress and I want to see the most all-inclusive, representative version of whichever one of us that may be.

A few more parting thoughts: I think it's dishonest to try and make people believe that "as your delegate" any of us can immediately solve the most pressing issues facing our community.

It's not as though by getting elected we suddenly get to wield a magic wand that resolves the "suffering" or the "corruption" or the "geo-political tensions" and much less the "apathy and sense of entitlement" that plagues our community. If any of those were within the control of our delegate, all would have been resolved since 2008.

The simple fact is that this is a job which will require a day-to-day/hour-to-hour/minute-to-minute series of tries and more tries to address our needs with everything available to us under the

American flag. A quick side note: I for one can't stand to hear about what a huge sacrifice this will be on any of us candidates. No doubt the job will be all-consuming and each of us should be prepared to give entirely of him or herself and...well... that's what I'm prepared to do. I view it as an incredible challenge and an opportunity to reciprocate the great privilege of being able to call the CNMI home. It most certainly is not a sacrifice, but rather a responsibility—"With great privilege, comes great responsibility."



# TEACHERS

From page 8

## as well put it on a T-shirt?

“Any prayer requests? Let’s pray” or “Class, do you have any questions, comments, or concerns?”

## What’s one school supply item you can’t live without (besides a pen or computer)?

My journal notebook.

## What inspired you to become a teacher?

After graduating from nursing, I went straight to teaching middle school students without any background in teaching. However, after a year of teaching, guiding, encouraging, and disciplining this group of students, I realized how much seeing them grow in understanding and character inspired me to want to teach them and learn from them.

## What is a typical day in your classroom?

We always start the class with prayer. Then, we have our assessments or go over assignments. Or, we go straight to the lessons or activities. Then, we reflect on or review the lessons. I give the assignments. After that, we go to the next class.

## What’s the most unforgettable classroom moment you’ve experienced as a teacher?

The most unforgettable classroom moment was when we got to cook different main dishes in Life Skills class, make ice cream for Physical Science class, act different characters in Speech Class, create a song and sing it in English Class, and many more.

## What is your favorite subject to teach and why?

Speech class is my favorite subject to teach because I get to see students get out of their comfort zone, showcase their acting skills, and just have fun in class.

## What do you like most about teaching?

It is when I have the chance to share the gospel message about Jesus Christ with my students because it is not only a part of the ministry of a Christian school but also an act of service, responsibility, and obedience before my God.

## Describe a troubling student you’ve taught (without naming names) and what you’ve done to get through to them?

Getting through some students I encountered in my years of teaching was being able

to listen to them and pray for them and with them, even if it meant sacrificing your time to make sure their voice was heard.

## How do you motivate your students to become active learners in your classroom?

Be equally active with them. Be spontaneous. Be concise and clear in giving instructions. Connect lessons related to their generation. Give constructive feedback. Be real with them.

## How do you manage work-life balance as a teacher, given the demands of the profession?

I cannot. I am not a great person to ask how to manage and balance work and life. However, all I can say is that God is my strength, my fortress, and my foundation. With Him, I can do what I cannot.

## Can you share a challenging experience you faced as a teacher and how you overcame it?

Each day will be filled with challenges. There are good days and there are bad days. Yet, at the end of each day, I am always reminded to be grateful, to be content, and to focus on the present. The best way for me is to leave all my worries in the hands of God, to put my faith and trust in Him knowing everything is under His control, and to continuously pray, read His words, and meditate on His promises because I know my God is good. Deuteronomy 31:8 KJV “And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.”

**Name:** Ms. April Liske-Clark  
**School:** Saipan International School  
**Teaching what grade:** 6th, 7th, 9th, 10th, and 11th

**How long have you been a teacher:** 7 years

**What’s the funniest thing a student has**

## ever said or done in your class?

I am not sure I can pick just one thing. It all runs together. There is not a day that goes by that my hands do not cover my face to hide my laughter or I just look off into space with a dumb founded expression because I just don’t know what to say next to something that a student has said. Example one: What is a beer? Now take into mind I had to tread lightly as I did not know where this was coming from. He was reading his notes and I was a bit confused. We had not talked about beer. This was from a 6th grader. I looked down at his notes and discovered that he had misspelled “deer”. I said “I think you mean “deer”. He said, “yah, okay well I don’t know what that is either.”

## What’s the most creative excuse you’ve ever heard from a student for missing an assignment?

Honestly my kids don’t come up with new things, it’s always the same. No wifi, bad wifi, my mom/dad won’t let me use my device, I forgot it (but then I call mom/dad to send me a picture of the homework, and they usually fess up that they didn’t do it). (I have parents on speed dial LOL)


## If you could swap jobs with any other teacher in the school, whose job would you want and why?

Sorry but no way, I love science.  
**If you weren’t a teacher, what job do you think you’d be doing right now?**

I am also a licensed RN, so I would be working at the hospital.



A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)



**Request for Proposal (RFP)**  
Debris Salvage and Removal Project  
Lot No. 205 E 10, Lowerbase, Saipan  
Issued by: Mariana Islands Nature Alliance (MINA)  
Date: 10/2/2024

**1. Introduction**  
The Mariana Islands Nature Alliance (MINA) is seeking proposals from qualified contractors for a Debris Salvage and Removal Project located at Lot No. 205 E 10 in Lowerbase, Saipan (Adjacent to the power poll staging site). This project involves the removal and proper disposal of debris, as well as salvage operations to recover valuable materials, in accordance with environmental regulations and safety standards.

**2. Project Overview**  
The objective of this project is to clear and clean Lot No. 205 E 10, the owner of the lot, The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, is partnering with MINA to clear and clean the lot of all solid waste. The selected contractor will be responsible for:

- Assessing the debris present on the site.
- Implementing a debris removal plan that includes salvage, sorting, and disposal.
- Ensuring compliance with all local, state, and federal environmental and safety regulations.
- Providing documentation and reporting as required (weight and volume by debris type).

**3. Scope of Work**  
The scope of work for the Debris Salvage and Removal Project includes, but is not limited to:

- Site Assessment:** Conduct a comprehensive assessment of the debris on Lot No. 205 E 10, in conjunction with MINA Project Manager and CUC representatives.
- Debris Salvage:** Identify and recover any valuable materials or items for salvage.
- Debris Removal:** Safely and efficiently remove all debris from the site.
- Disposal:** Dispose of debris in accordance with all relevant regulations and best practices.
- Site Restoration:** Ensure the site is left in a clean and safe condition post-removal.
- Reporting:** Provide detailed reports on the salvage and removal process, including any challenges encountered and how they were addressed.

**4. Proposal Requirements**  
Proposals should include the following:

- Company Profile: Overview of the company, including experience in debris removal and salvage projects.
- Project Approach: Detailed description of the proposed approach to the project, including methods, timeline, and safety measures.
- Cost Proposal: Breakdown of costs associated with the project, including labor, materials, equipment, and any additional fees.
- Qualifications: Resumes of key personnel who will be involved in the project and their relevant qualifications.
- References: Contact information for at least three references from similar projects completed in the past three years.
- Compliance: Proof of compliance with local, state, and federal regulations, including environmental and safety standards.
- Insurance: Proof of insurance coverage, including liability and worker's compensation.

**5. Evaluation Criteria**  
Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Experience and Qualifications: Relevant experience and qualifications of the contractor and project team.
- Project Approach: Effectiveness and feasibility of the proposed project approach.
- Cost: Competitiveness and transparency of the cost proposal.
- Compliance: Ability to meet regulatory and safety requirements.
- References: Feedback from provided references.

**6. Submission Instructions**  
Due to the time restrictions the proposals must be submitted by October 18, 2024 at 5:00 PM Submit proposals to:

**Mariana Islands Nature Alliance**  
Attn: David Benavente, Project Manager  
PO Box 506645 Saipan, MP 96950  
Email: [dbenavente.mina@gmail.com](mailto:dbenavente.mina@gmail.com)

Late or incomplete submissions will not be considered. For any questions or clarifications regarding this RFP, please contact David Benavente at [dbenavente.mina@gmail.com](mailto:dbenavente.mina@gmail.com) or (670) 989-7337


**7. Terms and Conditions**

- Contract Award: MINA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and is not obligated to award the contract to the lowest bidder.
- Contract Negotiation: The selected contractor will be required to enter into a formal contract with MINA.
- Confidentiality: All information submitted in response to this RFP will be considered confidential.


We look forward to receiving your proposal and working together to successfully complete this important project.

Sincerely,

/s/  
Roberta Guerrero  
Executive Director



**U.S. PROBATION OFFICE**  
Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands



**NOTICE OF SOLICITATION**  
**TREATMENT SERVICES FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE, MENTAL HEALTH, AND SEX OFFENDERS FOR FEDERAL DEFENDANTS AND OFFENDERS**

The U.S. Probation/Pretrial Services Office, Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, intends to procure **substance abuse, mental health, and sex offender treatment services** for federal defendants and offenders using Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPAs). Agreements are for **Fiscal Year 2025, with a provision for the Government to unilaterally extend the agreement in accordance with Section I, Clause 2-90D, Option to Extend the Term, for an additional four years, at four twelve-month intervals.** Separate BPAs will be issued for Guam and Saipan, and required services may include, but are not limited to: urine collection/testing; case management; assessments/evaluations; counseling in the areas of substance use, mental health, co-occurring disorders, and sex offense; and long term residential treatment.

Interested offerors must submit a letter of interest to [Grace\\_Flores@gup.uscourts.gov](mailto:Grace_Flores@gup.uscourts.gov) and [Melinda\\_Santos@gup.uscourts.gov](mailto:Melinda_Santos@gup.uscourts.gov) no later than November 1, 2024. The letter should include the offeror’s name, mailing address, telephone number, and e-mail address.

An e-mail will be sent to all interested offerors with notification of the availability of the Request for Proposals (RFP). Interested offerors must respond on time to solicitation deadlines and clearly show: (1) they can provide services within the catchment area with a facility available for use, (2) such services will be provided by professionals meeting the experience and criteria required, and (3) prices of such treatment shall be as low or lower than those charged to the offeror’s most favored customer for comparable quantities under similar terms and conditions.



# SIS attains Platinum mark on AP School Honor Roll

College Board announced that Saipan International School has been named to the 2024 Advanced Placement Program School Honor Roll. In 2023, SIS was the only CNMI school on the Honor Roll, earning Gold distinction. This year, SIS improved on its standing, earning the Platinum distinction, the highest level of distinction offered by the College Board.

The AP School Honor Roll recognizes schools whose AP programs are delivering results for students while broadening access. Schools can earn this recognition annually based on criteria that reflect a commitment to increasing college-going culture, providing opportunities for students to earn college credit, and maximizing college readiness.

SIS had 88% of its seniors take at least one AP Exam during high school and 58% score a 3 or higher on at least one AP Exam. In order to earn PLATINUM distinction, schools must have at least 80% of seniors taking at least one exam with at least 50% earning a passing mark. Additionally, to earn the Platinum distinction, schools must have at least 15% of its graduating seniors take five or more AP exams, where at least 1 exam was taken in 9th



SIS Christian Newman and M.J. Magno, Saipan International School's top AP score recipients for 2024, hold the AP Honor Roll banner with the AP Honor Roll Certificate.

or 10th grade. SIS far exceeded this minimum requirement with 46% of its seniors taking five or more AP Exams!

This recognition highlights the success of SIS in expanding access to AP courses and improving student performance. The school offers a wide range of AP courses across diverse subject areas, including AP Capstone, an innovative diploma program that equips students with independent research, collaborative teamwork, and communication skills. SIS was the first AP Capstone school in the CNMI and in the 2023-2024 academic year, 23 students passed the rigorous AP Research course, contributing to SIS's outstanding results. Seven teachers at Saipan International School

are authorized to teach its 14 Advanced Placement (AP) courses, the highest number in the CNMI in all schools, public or private. SIS offers the following courses:

- AP Biology
  - AP Physics 1
  - AP Physics C: Mechanics
  - AP Human Geography
  - AP Microeconomics
  - AP Macroeconomics
  - AP English Language and Composition
  - AP English Literature and Composition
  - AP Pre-Calculus
  - AP Calculus AB
  - AP Calculus BC
  - AP Statistics
  - AP Research
  - AP Seminar
- "We are incredibly proud to

receive the Platinum distinction on the AP Honor Roll," said Dr. Ron Snyder, headmaster of Saipan International School. "This achievement reflects the dedication of our teachers, the hard work of our students, and our commitment to providing a world-class education to the children of the CNMI. Our students are not only excelling academically but are also being prepared for future success by engaging in critical thinking, research, and problem-solving at the highest levels."

"AP gives students opportunity to engage with college-level work, to earn college credit and placement, and to potentially boost their grade point averages," said Trevor Packer, head of College Board's AP program.



SIS Saipan International School AP teachers hold the AP Honor Roll banner.

"The schools that have earned this distinction are proof that it is possible to expand access to these college-level courses and still drive strong performance. Only 6% of all schools earn the Platinum distinction—they represent the best of AP."

SIS continues to lead the way in AP education in the Northern Mariana Islands and remains dedicated to promoting a culture of academic rigor while maintaining inclusivity, encouraging students from all backgrounds to participate in the AP program. Achieving this honor underscores SIS' unwavering commitment to student

excellence and the school's mission of fostering lifelong learning, critical thinking, and academic success.

College Board's Advanced Placement AP Program enables students to pursue college-level studies-with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both-while still in high school. Through AP courses in 38 subjects, each culminating in a challenging exam, students learn to think critically, construct solid arguments, and see many sides of an issue-skills that prepare them for college and beyond. (PR)

## Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

2390 Beach Road, Oleai  
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 Fax: (670) 235-7147  
Website: www.developcnmi.com

### NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON AN APPLICATION FOR A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT AND REBATE OF CERTAIN CNMI TAXES

#### PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

**A. Public hearing.** In accordance with the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and pursuant to the rule-making procedures of the Administrative Procedures Act, the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA) will conduct a public hearing at the New Cafeteria Building, next to Building D, Marianas High School, Bwaay Lane, Susupe, Saipan, on Wednesday, November 6, 2024, at 5:00 p.m., on the application of J&P Holdings CNMI LLC, Applicant, for a Qualifying Certificate, which request is for tax relief by way of abatement and rebate of CNMI taxes in consideration of Applicant's proposed \$8,271,600.00 for a new passenger aviation company focusing on interisland transportation. All pursuant to the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and as set out in the Applicant's application for a Qualifying Certificate.

**B. Nature of hearing.** This hearing shall be open to the public. Oral or written statements will be received from anyone wishing to testify thereat, which statement will be incorporated into the records of the hearing.

**C. Further information.** For further information, please contact CEDA at the above telephone numbers or visit its office at the CEDA Building, 2390 Beach Road, Oleai, Saipan.

/s/ Derek T. Sasamoto  
Acting Executive Director

## Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

2390 Beach Road, Oleai  
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 Fax: (670) 235-7147  
Website: www.developcnmi.com

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE

#### PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

**A. Filing of Application.** J&P Holdings (CNMI), LLC, (the "Applicant"), has filed its application with the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority for a Qualifying Certificate under the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended (4 CMC §50201, et seq.).

**B. Address:** The address of the applicant is I Naftan, municipality of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

**C. Proposed Investment.** The Applicant intends to invest approximately \$8,271,600.00 for a new passenger aviation company focusing on interisland transportation at I Naftan, municipality of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, 96950.

**D. Benefits sought.** The Applicant is applying for tax relief provided by the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended (4 CMC §50201, et seq.), as follows:

Nature of Tax:	Percentage Requested:	Period Requested:
<u>Income Tax (Abatement)</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>25 years</u>
<u>Individual Income Tax (Abatement)</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>25 years</u>
<u>Business Gross Revenue Tax (Abatement)</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>25 years</u>

/s/ Derek T. Sasamoto  
Acting Executive Director

Pursuant to Qualifying Certificate Rules & Regulations, this ad is paid by the Applicant



# Bill to protect integrity of Judicial proceedings receives bipartisan support

HAGATÑA, Guam—Senators on both sides of the aisle expressed strong support today for Bill No. 291-37 (LS), a measure aimed at strengthening protections for judicial officers and the integrity of judicial proceedings. The bill, which was discussed during a public hearing at the Guam Legislature, seeks to prevent external threats and undue influence from compromising judicial decisions and the justice system.

Introduced by Vice Speaker Tina Muña Barnes, the legislation would make it a felony to interfere with a judicial officer with the intent to harass, intimidate, or influence them in the performance of their official duties.

“Our judges carry tremendous responsibility in making decisions that deeply impact our community,” said Chief Justice Robert J. Torres, who submitted testimony in support of the bill. “Their protection is not just a personal matter—it is essential to preserving justice itself.”

Torres cited that threats against the judicial branch have surged by 400% among federal officials, “and state judges in various jurisdictions have also been targeted. Last October, a Guam-born judge was killed at his home in Maryland after ruling in a child custody case, and more recently, a judge in Kentucky was shot and killed in his courthouse chambers. These incidents highlight the real dangers judges face across the country and in Guam.

Despite these growing threats, most of the protections currently in place only

apply to federal judges. In response, over the past year, more than 60 legislative proposals were introduced across 24 states, with 11 of those measures becoming law.

“When judicial officers are unsafe, public confidence in the judiciary erodes,” said Presiding Judge Lamorena, who also submitted testimony in support.

“The mere perception that decisions could be influenced by external pressures undermines the very foundation of justice. That is why Bill No. 291-37 is so important.”

If enacted, the bill would classify interference with a judicial officer as a third-degree felony. If the violation results in death or bodily harm to the officer or a family member, it would escalate to a first-degree felony.

“We as judicial officers understand the risk that we take when we assume the position...but our families don’t sign up for the potential risk of violence,” said Justice F. Philip Carbullido at the public hearing.

“This bill is essential to provide tools to law enforcement to be proactive. I personally thank you and, on behalf of my family, I thank you.”

Bill 291 is cosponsored by Sens. Joe S. San Agustin, Frank Blas, Jr., Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas, Christopher M. Dueñas, Roy A. B. Quinata, and William A. Parkinson. During the hearing, Sen. Jes-

se A. Lujan also requested to be a sponsor of the bill.

For additional information, contact Sarah G. Elmore-Hernandez at [sehernandez@guamcourts.gov](mailto:sehernandez@guamcourts.gov). (PR)

## DOI awards \$2.2M to GCC to increase its campus solar electric production


Guam Community College was awarded \$2.2 million from the Department of Interior Office of Insular Affairs, through the Office of the Governor, to install additional solar panels and batteries at its Mangilao campus. With the additional solar panels, GCC’s solar electric production will eclipse 650kW, meeting more than 35% of GCC’s campus wide electrical demand.

The solar panels will be placed on Building 1000 and Building D. In addition to putting solar panels on the roof, which will help shield the buildings from the sun’s heat, some panels will be placed in the parking lot next to the buildings. The parking lot solar panels will serve a dual purpose: They will provide a convenient carport while generating power for the buildings.

The new system installation will fully power Building D, making it the first carbon net-zero building on the GCC Campus. Additionally, using the parking lot to install the panels does not require removing any trees or vegetation to install the new system.

Currently, the college has 12 grid-tied photovoltaic systems generating between 10 and 50kW per system. GCC also has integrated solar water heaters and streetlights throughout the campus. More than 90% of the campus streetlights are solar-powered. Campus solar lighting systems have been in operation for 10 years.

Dr. Mary Okada, president of GCC, said. “GCC is all about sustainability. Not only do we look to the future, the environment, and climate change, but we also consider the economics and the return on investment in our facilities. This grant will allow us to save over \$3 million in the next 20 years, not including any projected electric cost increases. These savings ultimately allow GCC to keep tuition rates low to ensure that everyone has an opportunity in postsecondary education.” (PR)



**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
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Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
E-Mail Address: [cpa.admin@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.admin@pticom.com) • Website: [www.cnmiports.com](http://www.cnmiports.com)

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 09-2024**

**Opening date: September 16, 2024**

**Closing date: October 04, 2024**

**Location: SAIPAN**

**Position(s):** (1) Custodial-I  
(1) Ports Police Officer-I  
(2) General Maintenance-I

**SALARY**  
PL 1/1 to 1/12 (\$7.26/hr to \$12.42/hr)  
PL 7/1 to 7/12 (\$9.73/hr. to \$16.65/hr)  
PL 3/1 to 3/12 (\$8.01/hr to \$13.70/hr)

**Location: TINIAN**

**Position(s):** (1) AOA Controller/Ground Maintenance-I  
(1) General Maintenance-II  
(1) Radio Operator/Weather Observer

**SALARY**  
PL 5/1 to 5/12 (\$8.83/hr to \$15.10/hr)  
PL 5/1 to 5/12 (\$8.83/hr to \$15.10/hr)  
PL 7/1 to 7/12 (\$9.73/hr to \$16.65/hr)

**Location: ROTA**

**Position(s):** (1) General Maintenance-II  
(1) Radio Operator/Weather Observer


**SALARY**  
PL 5/1 to 5/12 (\$8.83/hr to \$15.10/hr)  
PL 7/1 to 7/12 (\$9.73/hr to \$16.65/hr)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than 5:00 P.M. on **Friday, October 04, 2024.**


Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays and austerities, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at [lorna.robert@cnmiports.com](mailto:lorna.robert@cnmiports.com) and [hsspecialist@cnmiports.com](mailto:hsspecialist@cnmiports.com) or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

LEO B. TUDELA  
Executive Director



**DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**  
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**NOTICE OF APPLICATION**  
**As of October 4, 2024**

**THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:**

NO.	APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1.	Marianas Management Corporation	9/10/2024 SW-2024-085	Construction of the Joeten-Oleai Center Parking Lot Expansion	Oleai, Saipan	Wetlands & Mangroves	Approved* 9/17/2024
2.	Marianas Surf Skate League, Inc. (MSSL)	9/24/2024 SSLRm-2024-086	Boogie Down Surf Competition	Obyan Beach, Saipan	Shoreline and Lagoon & Reef	Tabled* 9/26/2024
3.	Japan Association for Recovery and Repatriation of War Casualties (JARRWC)	9/24/2024 SSm-2024-087	Research Surveillance of WWII Remains	San Roque, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 9/26/2024
4.	Henry K. Pangelinan & Associates, LLC.	9/27/2024 SPIm-2024-088	Geotechnical Soil Investigation	Puerto Rico, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Certified Complete* 10/2/2024
5.	Department of Public Works (DPW)	10/2/2024 SSm-2025-001	Repair and Rehabilitation of Sugar Dock Pavilions and Amenities	Susupe, Saipan	Shoreline	Certified Complete* 10/2/2024
6.	SubCom, LLC.	8/28/2024 TLR-2024-005	Plato/Violin Cable System Potential Landing Site Survey	San Jose, Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 9/18/2024
7.	Municipality of Tinian, Tinian Mayors Office	9/18/2024 TSm-2024-006	Construction of Monkey Fitness Bar	Jones Beach, Tinian	Shoreline	Approved* 9/25/2024

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (\*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.



Life & Style

Doctor who helped supply Matthew Perry ketamine pleads guilty to drug charge

LOS ANGELES (AP)41—A San Diego doctor became the third person to plead guilty in the case of Matthew Perry’s fatal drug overdose, as prosecutors collect cooperators in an attempt to convict two bigger targets they say are responsible for the death of the “Friends” star.

Dr. Mark Chavez, 54, entered the plea Wednesday to a felony count of conspiring to distribute the surgical anesthetic ketamine in federal court in Los Angeles, after reaching a plea agreement with prosecutors in July.

Chavez agreed to cooperate as the U.S. Attorneys Office pursues more serious charges against Dr. Salvador Plasencia, who prosecutors say gave ketamine directly to Perry. The other major target in the investigation is Jasmine Sangha, an



Dr. Mark Chavez, a physician from San Diego, who is charged in connection with Matthew Perry’s fatal overdose, walks ahead of his with his criminal defense attorney, Matthew Binninger, seen in rear after pleading guilty to conspiring to distribute the surgical anesthetic ketamine in Los Angeles on Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2024.

alleged dealer who prosecutors say was known as the “ketamine queen” of Los Angeles and supplied the doses that killed Perry last year.

Chavez stood in court with his lawyer and answered dozens of questions from Judge Sherilyn Peace Garnett. He agreed to give up his right to trial and other rights.

He listened to prosecutors as they read through every instance of him meeting with Plasencia between San Diego and Los Angeles to hand off ketamine he got using fraudulent prescriptions. In all, he admitted to supplying 22 5-milliliter vials of ketamine and nine ketamine lozenges.

Chavez cleared his throat when a prosecutor described Perry’s death.

“Are you pleading guilty because you did the things the

prosecutors described?” Garnett asked Chavez.

“Yes, your honor,” he said.

Chavez remains free on bond until his April 2 sentencing. He has turned over his passport and agreed to surrender his medical license, among other conditions.

The judge told him that she is not bound by any agreement or recommendation and can still sentence him to the full 10 years allowed by law. But he is likely to be sentenced to far less time because of the plea and his cooperation with prosecutors.

His lawyer Matthew Binninger spoke only briefly to reporters outside the courthouse.

“Mark entered his plea of guilty and that’s now public record,” Binninger said. “You accept responsibility and then you set sentencing.”

Also working with federal prosecutors are Perry’s assistant, who admitted to helping him obtain and inject ketamine, and a Perry acquaintance, who admitted to acting as a drug messenger and middleman.

Perry was found dead by his assistant on Oct. 28, 2023. The medical examiner ruled that ketamine was the primary cause of death. The actor had been using the drug through his regular doctor in a legal but off-label treatment for depression that has become increasingly common.

Perry began seeking more ketamine than his doctor would give him. About a month before the actor’s death, he found Plasencia, who in turn allegedly asked Chavez to obtain the drug for him.

Oasis adds US, Canada, and Mexico stops to reunion tour

NEW YORK (AP)—Oasis shocked fans by announcing a reunion tour last month, ending a 15-year hiatus and, presumably, the long-held feud between brothers Liam and Noel Gallagher. But those were only U.K. dates. On Monday, the band shared that they’re planning on heading to North America in 2025, too.

“America. Oasis is coming. You have one last chance to prove that you loved us all along,” the Britpop band known for timeless hits like “Wonderwall” and “Don’t Look Back in Anger” shared in a statement.

The band initially announced

five new stadium dates for next summer, in Toronto, Chicago, outside New York, Los Angeles and Mexico City. On Wednesday, they revealed four additional dates: second nights in every city, save for Chicago.

American rock band Cage the Elephant will open.

Last month, error messages, hourslong online queues, and dynamic pricing—the quick rise and drop of price due to demand—frustrated fans hoping to score tickets to Oasis’ U.K. dates. There may be a solution for at least one of those issues: a spokesperson for Oasis management shared in a statement Monday that

“Ticketmaster’s dynamic pricing model will not be applied to the forthcoming sale of tickets to Oasis concerts in North America.”

“When unprecedented ticket demand (where the entire tour could be sold many times over at the moment tickets go on sale) is combined with technology that cannot cope with that demand, it becomes less effective and can lead to an unacceptable experience for fans,” it continued. “We have made this decision for the North America tour to hopefully avoid a repeat of the issues fans in the UK and Ireland experienced recently.”

Oasis split in 2009 after many years of infighting, with Noel Gallagher officially leaving the band just before a performance at a festival near Paris. Even before the dissolution, the brothers had long had an antagonistic relationship and reportedly did not speak to each other for years after the breakup. While the Gallagher brothers haven’t performed together since, both regularly perform Oasis songs at their solo gigs.

Tickets for North America go on sale at 12 p.m. local time on Friday. Registration for the presale ballot ended Tuesday. Attempts at registering for the

North American presale ballot required users to answer a trivia question: “What year did Oasis last play in North America?” (It was 2008.) Last month, the U.K. presale asked for the name of band’s original drummer, Tony McCarroll.

Oasis’ North American tour dates

- Aug. 24: Toronto
- Aug. 25: Toronto
- Aug. 28: Chicago
- Aug. 31: East Rutherford, New Jersey
- Sept. 1: East Rutherford, New Jersey
- Sept. 6: Los Angeles
- Sept. 7: Los Angeles
- Sept. 12: Mexico City
- Sept. 13: Mexico City

Relatives like to drop in with no notice

DEAR ABBY: Some relatives come once or twice a year from out of state to stay at my in-laws’ house. For the past 20-plus years, it has been the same routine. They show up, but we never know ahead of time when or how long they are staying. We are expected to drop everything to go over there to visit with them as long as they are in town. There are no plans and no schedule; we just sit around waiting for them to decide what they want to do.

I’m so tired of it. I would prefer knowing ahead of time so I won’t have to cancel my previous plans when they show up. It’s nice to chat, but I’d like to know beforehand that they are coming so I can meet them for a meal or activity rather than sit for hours. Can I make this request now that it has been going on for so long?

BURDENED IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR BURDENED: Yes, you can make your wishes known. What you are proposing is common sense and common courtesy. Tell these relatives you love seeing them but would like some advance notice when they plan to be in town so you can adjust your schedule and take them somewhere rather than sit for hours at your in-laws’. It’s entirely possible that these relatives—AND your in-laws—would appreciate it.

■■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am a widower aged 72, and I’m wonder-

ing if it would be inappropriate to contact an old girlfriend from my college days. Yes, it has been more than 50 years, and she is married with grown children. I’m just wondering what your position is on this.

It would be nice to talk and catch up on our lives, etc. She lives 400 miles from where I do, but I would like to speak with her and talk about our lives. Since we both are in our early 70s, there’s obviously not a lot of time left.

CATCHING UP IN GEORGIA

DEAR CATCHING UP: My position is don’t dip your hook in the water unless you plan to keep whatever you catch. Your old girlfriend is a married woman with a family. If your motive is to simply sing a chorus of “Auld Lang Syne,” go ahead and reach out. If you are lonely and there is ANYTHING more to it, then don’t.

■■■■■

DEAR ABBY: For the past two years, my husband and I have attended a holiday concert with our good friend “Ellie,” who lives two hours away. Ellie recently told a friend of hers how wonderful the concert was, and now the friend wants to come to town to see it. The problem? We do not like this person for several reasons, but Ellie has chosen to invite this friend to attend the concert with her. We feel slighted. How should we approach this with Ellie?

OUT OF TUNE IN ARIZONA

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR OUT: I recommend you not do that. You may be close with Ellie, but you shouldn’t try to dictate who she invites to be her guests to events. If you do, you will alienate her. Accept that if you want to attend the next concert you will have to buy your tickets separately, and when you encounter Ellie and her friend whom you abhor, be cordial.

■■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)







# Tigers close out playoff sweep of Astros with 5-2 victory



**HOUSTON**  
(AP)—Manager A.J.

Hinch wanted his Detroit Tigers to embody their home city. Hard-working with a never-give-up attitude, but most of all a team that had grit.

That's how they stormed into October—and just kept going.

Andy Ibáñez hit a tiebreaking three-run double in Detroit's four-run eighth inning, and the Tigers swept the Houston Astros with a 5-2 victory in Game 2 of their AL Wild Card Series on Wednesday.

"Our city is built on grit," a jubilant Hinch said in a prosecco-soaked clubhouse. "That's what it is. I remember saying that I wanted to have a team that this city is proud of. I think the city is pretty proud of what we're doing and how we're doing it and the fight that this team shows."

Parker Meadows homered as Detroit ended Houston's run of seven consecutive appearances in the AL Championship Series. It was a sweet moment for Hinch, who led Houston to a championship in 2017 and was fired in the aftermath of the Astros' sign-stealing scandal.

"This is what you play for," he said. "Baseball's great."

Next up for the wild-card Tigers is a trip to Cleveland to take on the AL Central champions in a best-of-five AL Division Series. Game 1 is on Saturday.

"Regardless that nobody was rooting for us, regardless that nobody was putting us in the playoffs in a good spot, we didn't care," Ibáñez said. "We just put in hard work ... to make the results come."

Kerry Carpenter sparked Detroit's eighth-inning rally with a one-out single off Ryan Pressly (0-1), who converted his first 14 postseason save opportunities. Carpenter advanced to third on a single by Matt Vierling and scored on a wild pitch, tying it at 2.

Pressly departed after Colt Keith reached on a two-out walk, and closer Josh Hader walked Spencer Torkelson to load the bases.

Hinch then sent Ibáñez up to hit for Zach McKinstry, and he lined a 1-2 sinker into the corner in left for a 5-2 lead.

Ibáñez hadn't driven in a run since Sept. 10. He hit just .167 in September.

"He's had a tough stretch," Hinch said. "But his season restarts in October, and he's showing that."

Vierling, Keith and Torkelson jumped around and high-fived in celebration after scoring on Ibáñez's clutch swing. Ibáñez raised his arms high above his head and smiled as he reached second.



Detroit Tigers' Andy Ibanez celebrates his bases-clearing double against the Houston Astros in the eighth inning of Game 2 of an AL Wild Card Series baseball game Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2024, in Houston.

Hader, who signed a \$95 million, five-year contract with Houston in January, allowed three hits and walked two in 1 1/3 innings.

Detroit used seven different pitchers a day after pitching Triple Crown winner Tarik Skubal got the win in the series opener. Sean Guenther pitched 1 2/3 innings for the win in Game 2, and Will Vest handled the ninth for the save.

In the postseason for the first time since 2014, Detroit also got a solo home run from Meadows in the sixth to help the franchise to its first playoff series win since the 2013 ALDS.

Just making it to the playoffs seemed improbable before Detroit went 31-13 down the stretch in the regular season, helped along by the leadership of Hinch—who knows a little something about October success from his time with the Astros.

"They did everything right to win the series," Houston second baseman Jose Altuve said.

Eight of the first nine Wild Card Series since they began in 2002 have been sweeps. It's the fourth sweep in post-season history for the Tigers, who previously swept the AL Championship Series in 1984, 2006 and 2012.

The Astros jumped in front in the seventh, but they lost their seventh straight post-season game at home. Houston's ALCS streak included four World Series appearances and two titles.

**ROYALS 2, ORIOLES 1**  
**BALTIMORE** (AP)—Bobby

Witt Jr. beat out an infield single to drive in the go-ahead run and send the Kansas City Royals into an AL Division Series with a 2-1 victory over the Baltimore Orioles on Wednesday for a two-game sweep of their Wild Card Series.

With two outs and runners at the corners in sixth inning, Witt hit a grounder to the edge of the dirt behind second base, where Jordan Westburg made a diving stop and throw to first. Witt was already there after zooming 90 feet in 4.14 seconds, allowing Kyle Isbel to score from third.

"I just had to try to run," Witt said.

It was the second consecutive game in which the AL batting champion provided the decisive hit. Witt's RBI single in Tuesday's series opener plated the only run in a 1-0 victory.

"You never know when this opportunity ever is going to happen again, so got to make the most of it while you have it," Witt said. "That's the fun part of this game. This is why we do it, these situations here."

Kansas City, which endured two seven-game losing streaks over the final month of the season, advanced to face the AL East champion New York Yankees. Game 1 is Saturday in the Bronx.

Cedric Mullins homered for the Orioles, who fell to 0-5 during two quick playoff exits the past two years. Baltimore has dropped its last 10 post-season games.

The new-look Royals lost 106 games last season but used a 30-win improvement to get back to October for the

first time since winning the 2015 World Series.

Second baseman Michael Massey, who led off the game with a double and scored on a single by Vinnie Pasquantino, said the front office bringing in experienced veterans with playoff experience like Tommy Pham, Yuli Gurriel, Michael Wacha and Will Smith made this possible.

"They've been there before, they've done it, so I think it's helped a lot of guys," Massey said. "It's helped us, for sure me, to be around those guys and just watch them, more than anything, and see how they go about their business, has been—I think that's helped us stay even keel."

The Royals left 12 runners on base and got through another close game with a razor-thin margin for error thanks to some masterful managing by Matt Quatraro, himself a post-season rookie like Witt, Game 1 winner Cole Ragans and so many others.

**PADRES 5, BRAVS 4**

**SAN DIEGO** (AP)—Kyle Higashioka's solo homer started a five-run rally against an ailing Max Fried with two outs in the second inning, and the San Diego Padres held on to sweep the Atlanta Braves with a 5-4 victory in Game 2 of their NL Wild Card Series on Wednesday night.

Manny Machado added a two-run double with the bases loaded and Jackson Merrill, a top contender for NL Rookie of the Year, followed with a two-run triple as the sellout crowd of 47,705—the largest in Petco Park history—roared.

The Padres, who would love to win a World Series title in memory of late owner Peter Seidler, head up Interstate 5 to face Shohei Ohtani and the NL West rival Dodgers in a National League Division Series beginning Saturday evening at top-seeded Los Angeles.

San Diego eliminated the 111-win Dodgers in a 2022 NLDS.

Robert Suarez pitched a perfect ninth for the save. As soon as Higashioka caught pinch-hitter Travis d'Arnaud's foul pop for the final out—the catcher had to step over first baseman Donovan Solano, who also went for it—the crowd started chanting "Beat L.A.!"

"This team's always shown the ability to be resilient and never quit," Higashioka said. "That's a credit to all the guys. Just putting together good at-bats no matter what."

Fried and Padres starter Joe Musgrove exited early with injuries. Fried left after the second inning. He was hit on the left hip by a ball off the bat of Fernando Tatis Jr. two batters into his outing. Musgrove left with right elbow tightness with two outs in the fourth after throwing two slow curveballs to Matt Olson.

Padres manager Mike Shildt didn't have a postgame update on Musgrove, other than to say it was the same area of the elbow that sidelined the big right-hander earlier this season.

"Fortunately, we had the lead," Shildt said. "His leaving with two outs in the fourth was a challenge, but we found solutions and the bullpen was rested and played its part to bring it home."

After the Padres took a 5-1 lead in the second, Jorge Soler hit a solo homer in the fifth and Michael Harris II had a two-run shot in the eighth.

Fried, who took the loss, got out of a bases-loaded jam in the first. He then allowed five runs on six straight hits with two outs in the second.

**BREWERS 5, METS 3**

**MILWAUKEE** (AP)—Jackson Chourio tied the game in the eighth with his second homer of the night and Garrett Mitchell delivered a two-run shot later in the inning to give the Milwaukee Brewers a 5-3 victory over the New York Mets on Wednesday that evened their NL Wild Card Series.

The teams will play a decisive Game 3 on Thursday night. The Brewers will attempt to become the first team to win a best-of-three Wild Card Series after losing the opener since MLB went to this expanded playoff format in 2022.

"We talk about it every night: 'Win tonight. Do whatever it takes,'" Mitchell said. "And that's what we did."

Milwaukee trailed 3-2 when Chourio led off the eighth by homering to right-center off losing pitcher Phil Maton, making his fourth appearance on the mound in five days. The 20-year-old rookie also opened the bottom of the first inning with a drive to right against Sean Manaea, becoming the youngest player to hit a leadoff homer in the postseason.

After Blake Perkins singled and William Contreras grounded into a double play, Willy Adames kept the eighth inning going with a single. Mitchell then hit a drive just over the wall in right-center, a 390-foot shot that sent the American Family Field crowd into a frenzy.

"In that situation, it's like the moment is telling you to speed up, try to do more, swing for the fences, whatever you're thinking," Mitchell said. "For me, it was just like, just attack in the zone. ... Be yourself, be relaxed, pass it to the next guy. That was my mentality. I'm not trying to hit a homer there."

He did it anyway by connecting on a first-pitch curveball.

"Too much plate," Maton said. "Happy with going first-pitch curveball to get ahead. It was just one of those things where he put a good swing on it. Nine times out of 10, I feel like I get a flyball to center field for an out. He put a good swing on it."

New York manager Carlos Mendoza said after the game that closer Edwin Díaz was available, but the Mets didn't want to use him for more than an inning.

Devin Williams retired the side in order in the ninth to earn the save. Joe Ross picked up the win after pitching 1 1/3 innings of scoreless relief.

Milwaukee had been 0-26 in the postseason when trailing going into the eighth inning, according to MLB.com.

Chourio is the second-youngest player to homer twice in a postseason game, behind 19-year-old Andruw Jones for Atlanta in the 1996 World Series opener at Yankee Stadium. The rookie has shown no signs of postseason pressure while going 4 for 8 in two games.

Now he has the Brewers one win from their first postseason series victory since 2018.

"It's just been an incredible year," Chourio said through a translator. "There's not much more to say than that. It's been an incredible year for everyone, for all the guys in that clubhouse. I think we saw the fruits that were beared from that."



# Knicks add Towns from T'Wolves after completing 3-team trade with Hornets



**NEW YORK (AP)—**Karl-Anthony Towns joined the Knicks on Wednesday after the Minnesota Timberwolves sent their four-time All-Star to New York in a three-team trade that also included the Charlotte Hornets.

The deal was agreed to Friday but took a few days to complete under the NBA's complicated new trade rules, meaning Towns has not been able to practice with the Knicks in their first two days of training camp in Charleston, South Carolina.

After practice in Minnesota, Timberwolves coach Chris Finch fondly reflected on his time with Towns and praised him for how welcoming he was upon being hired midway through the 2020-21 season to replace Ryan Saunders, with whom Towns had a close relationship.

"Performance wise, one of the most skilled players I've ever coached, no doubt about it. Incredibly talented player who did a lot of amazing things in last year's playoffs. That doesn't happen without his contribution on both ends of the floor, for sure," Finch said. "Just a really good guy, big for the community. So it's always hard. It just is. You don't think about the human side of things when you're contemplating these types of moves, but when they happen, that's the first thing that comes to mind."

The Knicks can't wait to plug him into their center spot, believing his outside shooting can be the key for a team that thinks it can contend for a title this season.

"He possesses a blend of playmaking, shooting, rebounding and defending that in combination with his size allows him to compete at a level that is rare in this league," Knicks President Leon Rose said in a statement.

The Timberwolves received three-time All-Star Julius Randle and guard Donte DiVincenzo from the Knicks, while reacquiring Keita Bates-Diop and also receiving a first-round pick.

The Knicks sent Charlie Brown, DaQuan Jeffries and Duane Washington Jr. to the Hornets, along with two second-round picks, and acquired the draft rights to center James Nnaji.

Towns arrived in Minnesota as the No. 1 pick in the 2015 draft and leaves what appears to be a team on the rise. The Timberwolves reached the Western Conference finals last season, even though Towns was limited by injuries to 62 games.

Now the 7-footer, who has averaged 22.9 points and



Minnesota Timberwolves center Karl-Anthony Towns (32) drives to the basket over Dallas Mavericks forward Maxi Kleber (42) during the second half in Game 4 of the NBA basketball Western Conference finals, Tuesday, May 28, 2024, in Dallas.

10.8 rebounds while shooting 39.8% from 3-point range, leaves behind an All-Star pairing with Anthony Edwards for one with Jalen Brunson.

"Nine years ago, I arrived in Minnesota as a young man with a dream. Little did I know that this place would become my home, and its people would become my family. Your love, support, and un-

wavering loyalty have fueled my journey and inspired me to be the best player I could be," Towns wrote on X in what he called a post to the Timberwolves family.

"Thank you to my teammates, coaches, and the entire Timberwolves organization for the countless opportunities and experiences. I'll cherish the friendships I've made

and the battles we've fought together."

He rejoins Tom Thibodeau, one of his former coaches in Minnesota, after the Knicks gave up two key pieces to get him.

Randle was the NBA's Most Improved Player in 2021, when he led the Knicks to their first playoff berth since 2013, and the Knicks went to

the postseason in three of his five seasons in New York after being one of the league's worst teams before he arrived. The Knicks reached the Eastern Conference semifinals the last two years, though Randle missed the postseason last season after surgery for a dislocated shoulder.

"Julius played a major role in establishing the foundation

and culture of our team and we cannot thank Julius enough for what he did for this city and organization both on and off the court," Rose said.

DiVincenzo averaged a career-high 15.5 points last season, his only one with the Knicks, and his career-best 283 3-pointers made were third in the NBA and set a single-season franchise record.

For the Timberwolves, DiVincenzo was the vital part of the deal for added depth on the wing. Finch said the club was not financially motivated to move Towns' contract, even if they were on track to pass the second apron of the luxury tax.

"Our ownership was and is committed to paying large amounts of tax for this team to be highly competitive. That hasn't changed," Finch said. "This deal in totality checks a lot of boxes. We think it's a great basketball trade. We think it makes us deeper in a lot of ways and in ways that we needed. It does give us flexibility and mechanisms to keep remaking the team going forward. That, more than anything, that whole package there was the reasons for the deal. But it doesn't change either our expectations coming into the season. We still have a very, very talented roster, the same core as last year and we've got two great weapons to add to that."

## LeBron is feeling 'pure joy' as he begins Lakers training camp alongside son Bronny

**EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—**LeBron James is beginning his 22nd training camp this week with the Los Angeles Lakers, and this one will be a unique experience.

The NBA's career scoring leader is sharing a locker room and a court with Bronny James, his 19-year-old son and the Lakers' second-round draft pick. They'll soon become the first father and son in NBA history to play together, fulfilling an aspiration first expressed by LeBron several years ago.

The 20-time All-Star didn't downplay his excitement Monday to see one of his few remaining basketball dreams coming true.

"There's a lot of excitement," LeBron said. "It's pure joy, to be honest, to be able to come to work every day, put in the hard work with your son every day and be able to see him continue to grow. We push each other. He pushes me, I push him. We push our teammates. Just a very joyous moment, not only for myself, but for our family."

Father and son wore the Lakers' gold uniforms together at the team's media day,

posing for innumerable photos and giving interviews that showcased the easy banter of family. Bronny's new No. 9 jersey reads "JAMES JR." on the back, in a nod to his full name, LeBron James Jr.

Their partnership is a dream for the 39-year-old LeBron, but it's been largely surreal for Bronny, who turns 20 on Sunday. After growing up and excelling at basketball in his famous father's shadow, Bronny is balancing the excitement of reaching the NBA with the task of adjustment to the unprecedented challenge of being in the same uniform as his devoted father.

"I think I'm most looking forward to practice, just going head to head with each other," Bronny said. "That's such a crazy feeling, to be in practice with your dad and competing at a high level. But on the other side of that, having to go against LeBron James is kind of a lot in practice every day. But yeah, I'm looking forward to it as well."

They might be working together, but every day will not be Take-Your-Son-

to-Work Day for LeBron: Bronny says he is "definitely not" driving from their home to Lakers practices with his father.

"It's already so much that we've been grouped together as," Bronny said with a big grin. "I'd like to stay as (far) away as possible from that guy."

LeBron gets it, he said with a grimace.

"To be honest, if you have kids, I mean, at my age and his age, there's not really much interaction going on on a day-to-day basis," LeBron said. "He comes down, he eats, he goes to his room, plays a video game. If I'm down there with my wife watching a movie, he'll stop in. So it's not much, like, 'Meet me at the table at 5 o'clock. We need to discuss work tomorrow.' That doesn't happen."

LeBron affirmed his offseason declaration on his YouTube talk show that Bronny isn't allowed to call him "Dad" at work. Bronny isn't so sure, although he admits he'll try to say "Bron."

"Whatever comes out of my mouth when I'm trying

to speak to him is what he's going to accept," Bronny said with a grin. "Doesn't really mean much. I haven't really addressed him in any way yet, so we'll see how it goes."

New Lakers coach JJ Redick said last week that he'll make a plan with the family for their historic appearance together early in the regular season. It's also assumed that Bronny will spend much of the upcoming season with the South Bay Lakers of the G League, improving his skills after he played sparingly in his only college season at Southern California.

"If we get a couple of opportunities on the floor throughout the course of the season, obviously that's going to be amazing," LeBron said. "It will be awesome. We'll wait for that moment when it happens, and then go from there."

LeBron has been a 6-foot-9 physical force of nature during his NBA career, and he has realistic goals for his 6-foot-2 son.

"Seeing him continue to grow as a basketball player, no matter if it's here with

us or if it's down with the G League team, and him continuing to get better and better," LeBron said. "We want to hold him accountable. He's going to hold us accountable, and if we all do that, we'll all get better, because we're all one team. We are a reflection of the South Bay. The South Bay is a reflection of us. ... We'll continue to grow, stacking days. I know he's going to do that, because that's just what he's about."

The rest of the Lakers had only positive thoughts about the arrival of their superstar teammate's son. Anthony Davis takes his own measure of pride in Bronny's arrival after watching his growth over the past half-decade from a teenager to an NBA prospect.

"It's awesome. It's historic. It's powerful," Davis said. "Bronny's locker is across from mine, so every time I walk in and see it, it's still surreal for me that he's on the same team as his dad. I can't wait until they step on the floor and officially make history, but it's been super-dope to watch so far."



# Ol'Aces hosts 1st 4x4 Hoops Classic

By LEIGH GASES

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REPORTER



Ol'Aces, under coach Elias Rangamar, hosted its 1st 4x4 Hoops Classic last Thursday, Sept. 26, to Saturday, Sept. 28 at the Agape Gymnasium.

The tournament that featured non-stop basketball action had 20 teams scattered over four male divisions—14U, 17U, Masters, and Open.

Champions of the 14U were Prospects after they beat Cold Blooded Prodigy by two points, 10-8. There were no last names provided by the organizers. Prospects included Leon D. David A., Jacob S., Logan D., Liam W., and Jairus P.

In the 17U division, Prime Time won, also 10-8, over



14U division champion Prospects poses for a group photo with their trophy during the awards ceremony of the Ol'Aces' 4x4 Hoops Classic last Saturday at the Agape Gymnasium.

Sagman. Prime Time was made up of Lance, J.D. Jezipher, Kian, Eloy, and Mykee.

In the masters division, Slow Motion overpowered 2 Old 2 Quit, 21-11. Slow Motion's roster was Dave A., Shine T., James B., Riv S.,

Hank S., and Manny D.

And in the Open division, Team U.S.A. won in a buzzer-beater, 15-14, over K-2 Ballers. Team U.S.A. had Airson, Matthew, Freddy, Harry, Craig, and Jon.

Rangamar said that the 4x4

format was chosen for this tournament because "It involves more participants with more actions off the ball and not as tasking as 3x3." On the turnout, he said, "We had to turn down a lot of teams because we were limited with

gym usage and time constraints."

With the performances of the teams in a 4x4 tourney, he said, "I was impressed with a lot of individual talent and one on one skills but players still lacking game management, offensive, and defensive schemes—which somehow made some games seem very rough, but then again, with 3x3 and 4x4, that's to be expected."

He said that the goal of the tournament was to basically have a consistent competition to keep basketball moving on Saipan as basketball's federation—the NMI Basketball Federation is busy and lacking personnel.

"For months, my club and other clubs including a lot of recreational players were constantly inquiring if there are any upcoming leagues or tournaments. I understand the NMIBF is bombarded with other activities i.e. school competitions but most importantly, they're lacking personnel to conduct all the various leagues so I thought I'd help out by maybe organizing a few monthly tournaments to keep our youth and other basketball aficionados occupied."

According to Rangamar, Ol'Aces stands for Oleai Aces which was formed back in 1975 which comprised youths from the village of Oleai back when basketball was popular

in the villages. Through the years, Ol'Aces branched out to include Little League baseball, volleyball, soccer, etc.

He added that next year, Ol'Aces will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. "We're hoping to get our officers and club reorganized to come up with events to celebrate and honor our founders and all the coaches and players that have gone through our program," he said.

He then said there were no sponsors for this tournament, just him deciding to continue providing services to the community. "I would like to thank Mr. Michael Mercado for donating some watered bottles during the tournament. For the next tournament though, I'll be seeking some help from the business community as I anticipate this program to expand."

"In closing, I would like to thank Mr. Pang of Agape Christian School for availing the gym for our usage. Our partnership these past few years have been invaluable. Lastly, to all the coaches, clubs, and players, a big thank you for taking your time to participate in this Ol'Aces fundraiser. Your participation made the tournament memorable. Information and details for next month's tournament is forthcoming."

Rangamar, who is not only a basketball coach but also the coach and development officer for the Northern Marianas Athletics, is also running for a seat in the House of Representatives in this year's general elections under Precinct 3.



17U division champion Prime Time poses for a group photo with their trophy during the awards ceremony of the Ol'Aces' 4x4 Hoops Classic last Saturday at the Agape Gymnasium.



Masters division champions Slow Motion pose for group photo with their trophy during the awards ceremony of the Ol'Aces' 4x4 Hoops Classic last Saturday at the Agape Gymnasium.



Open division champions Team U.S.A. poses for group photo with their trophy during the awards ceremony of the Ol'Aces' 4x4 Hoops Classic last Saturday at the Agape Gymnasium.



Team U.S.A.'s Airson Atan attempts to reject K-2 Ballers' Frankie Satur's layup during the finals of the open division in the Ol'Aces' 4x4 Hoops Classic last Saturday at the Agape Gymnasium.

## FRINK

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backstroke, and freestyle and second in the breaststroke.

For Retardo, much like Frink she swept all four events in the 9-10 division for a 4 total points. Yoonmin Cho came in second with 9 points after finishing runner-up in the everything but the backstroke where he came in third. Leo Li was third with 15 points following third place finishes in the butterfly and breaststroke and No. 4 and No. 5 in the backstroke and freestyle, respectively.

In the 8-and-under age group, Shin topped two races—butterfly and breaststroke—while coming in second in the backstroke and freestyle for 6 points. Olivia Walsh

was second with 7 points after first place finishes in the backstroke and freestyle and third in butterfly and second in breaststroke. Lukasz Szefer came third with 11 points following a second-place finish in the butterfly and third place finishes in the backstroke, breaststroke, and freestyle.

On top of winning her age group, Frink was just glad that the Tetrathlon allowed her to meet new people and new friends.

"Before the race I was nervous and scared. I told myself just to calm down and focus on your own pace and especially to have fun. When I realized I gotten first I felt proud for myself because of my hard work. I knew I will and can have new opportunities in those fu-

ture events If I keep pushing myself to work harder."

Gwen Retardo, meanwhile, said she's just happy to have achieved her goals in the Tetrathlon.

"When I got my medal, I was happy with my results. I liked talking to new people at SSC and met some of my old friends. All in all, I was really happy when I came there from the start to finish. After this I want to do this more. Thank you for my coach and teammates."

Shin then attributed her win for being a member of Tsunami Saipan.

"Since I practice at Tsunami, I think I get the medal. I will practice harder and get more medals in the future. Thank you to my coach."

## MCS

From page 20

Lady Dolphins with a 10-point advantage. But MHS wasn't going down without a fight and responded in the second set—rallying powerful serves and solid defense. It was a turn of events as the Knights fell with a 9-point deficit.

In the winner-take-all tie-breaking third set, it was an intense battle through and through that went into extra points. Both teams traded points, neither willing to back down. It was a neck-and-neck fight, with the

score tied at multiple points. Ultimately, the Knights managed to dig deep, making crucial plays to finally edge out the Lady Dolphins by just two points, 16-14.

MCS' roster includes Jieun Kwon, Chelsy Reyes, Chealzka Navarro, Mia Yobei, Mia Abuan, Maili Peter, Hope McQuay, Sarah Melchor, Patricia Matsumoto, Aubrey Quitugua, Anjoelena Villagomez, and Aryanna Taimanao.

In other results that night, Kagman High School took down Saipan International School in twin sets, 21-18, 21-18; MHS II defeated sis-

ter team MHS III in three tough sets, 13-21, 21-19, 15-13; and Saipan Southern High School routed SIS II, 21-19, 21-14.

In the varsity standings as of last Tuesday, MHS and Agape Christian School lead with a 2-1 record; MCS and GCA are at 2-2 each; SIS and SSHS are at 1-2; and KHS have a 1-3 record.

There are just a few more games in the regular season, with the championship series set for Oct. 23-25.

Results of last night's games will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

## UNDERGROUND

From page 20

a few points, 42-50 at the end of the first half. Rod Gellrob, Irvyn Malonzo, Jomar Tengco, and Razel Barrios kept them in the game as their contributions skyrocketed to double digits.

They were neck-and-neck further into the second half, but two clutch 3-pointers by Manansala and Meriales gave Underground a slight advantage.

In the end, the trips to the free throw line proved pivotal as Underground won by a margin of just seven points, 91-84.

Meriales was the sharpshooter of the game with a game high 26 points, while Manansala gave 19 points, and Lumen had 18 markers. On the other hand, Gellrob scored 19, and Malonzo and Tengco contributed 15 each.

The league started last month with eight teams—Underground, Solid Lakay, Beto, Vizion Insurance, HBR, Savory Bistro Cafe, Velleza, and Jacob's Sakalam.

The next two semis teams will be determined by the winners of tonight's games.

At 6pm, Vizion Insurance

will take on HBR, while after, Beto will face off against Savory Bistro Cafe.

The semis are slated for tomorrow at 6pm and 7:30pm.

The finals are set for Sunday, Oct. 6 at 7:30pm.

**Underground 91** – Meriales 26, Manansala 19, Lumen 18, Dela Cruz 11, Gragasin 11, Francisco 6.

**Sakalam 84** – Gellrob 19, Malonzo 15, Tengco 15, Barrios 14, Bondad 10, Catibog 6, Rivera 5.

**Scoring by halves:** 50-42, 91-85.





Tigers close out  
playoff sweep of  
Astros with 5-2  
victory.  
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# Saipan Tribune Sports

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



## MCS beats MHS; no undefeated teams left

File photo shows Mount Carmel School's Anjoelena Villagomez fully stretched after an overhead serve during their first game of the season of the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2024-2025 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



LEIGH GASES

File photo shows Mount Carmel School's Mia Yobei smacking a return as a Saipan Southern High School player leaps to for an attempted block at the net during one of their games in the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2024-2025 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

LEIGH GASES

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER

The level of play this season is high and competitive as can be as there are currently no undefeated teams in the varsity standings after their games in the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2024-2025 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium last Tuesday.



After Mount Carmel School defeated Marianas High School, they handed MHS their first loss, which gave each varsity team (besides Tinian and Rota who have yet to play) at least one loss this season.

The Knights worked as one unit and brought down the mighty Lady Dolphins after three tough sets, 21-11, 12-21, 16-14.

MCS came out strong in the first set, showing precision and energy as they thrashed the

See MCS on Page 19

## Frink, Retardo, Shin top Tetrathlon

By MARK RABAGO  
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EDITOR

Catalina Frink, Gwen Retardo, and Lucy Shin finished in first place in their respective age groups in last Saturday's Tetrathlon hosted by the Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation and participated in by swimmers from Tsunami Swimming

Center Saipan and Saipan Swim Club at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

A Tetrathlon is an event where swimmers compete in four strokes—butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke, and freestyle. First place gets 1 point, second 2 points, third 3 points, and so on. Like golf, the swimmer with the lowest score wins the age group. In this particular race the distance was 50m.

Frink won the 11-12 division with four points after topping all four strokes for 4 total points. Mia Camacho edged Sera Guerrero for place second after both swimmers finished with 11 points. The former finished second in the butterfly, backstroke, and freestyle while coming in fifth in the breaststroke. The latter, meanwhile, came in third in the butterfly,

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation vice president and Tetrathlon meet director with John Hirsh poses with the 8-and-under age group winners Olivia Walsh, Lucy Shin, Lukasz Szeffler.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation vice president and Tetrathlon meet director with John Hirsh with 11-12 division winners Catalina Frink and Sera Guerrero.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation vice president and Tetrathlon meet director with John Hirsh with 9-10 division winners Yoon min Cho and Gwen Retardo.

## Underground, Velleza in semis of Destroyers Friendlies

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER



Underground and Velleza have secured their spot in the semis of the Destroyers Basketball Club Friendly Games 2024 Season 2 at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Underground trounced Jacob's Sakalam, 91-84, last Tuesday. Meanwhile, Velleza won by default after their opponent, Solid Lakay, couldn't make it to their game.

It was nonstop back-and-forth action as both teams vied for a semis spot last Tuesday, but Underground came out on top with some points to spare from clutch free throws made towards the end.

Jobert Meriales was the difference-maker for Underground as he buried Jacob's Sakalam with back-to-back field goals throughout the game. His consistency in the first half was translated into the second as he continued to rack up points alongside teammates Paul John Manansala and Vincent Lumen.

However, Jacob's Sakalam kept pace and was behind by  
See UNDERGROUND on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Team Underground poses for a group photo during the Destroyers Basketball Club Friendly Games 2024 Season 2 at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Team Velleza poses for a group photo during the Destroyers Basketball Club Friendly Games 2024 Season 2 at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.